

The Middlebury Campus

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Annual Green Issue

Since 1905

SNG lobbies for Copenhagen

Green group rallies support for climate summit

By Adam Schaffer

STAFF WRITER

Members of Middlebury's Sunday Night Group (SNG), a student-run environmental advocacy organization, engaged in a campaign this week to encourage students to call President Obama and demand his attendance at the upcoming climate talks in Copenhagen.

Officials from nearly 193 countries will be attending the meeting, which begins Dec. 7. At press time, President Obama remained unsure of whether he would attend.

The meeting will be a continuation of the work of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change that focuses on

"stabiliz[ing] the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous man-made climate changes," according to the UN.

Organizers originally hoped that these talks will result in a firm agreement on capping emissions and will go farther than the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, many of the goals of which have not been realized.

However, Obama and other world leaders acknowledged Sunday that a legally binding treaty is not a feasible goal for the upcoming talks. Rather, they will pursue a more ambiguous "politically" binding agreement, and continue work in the upcoming talks in Mexico City in 2010.

"Politically binding" effectively means that the treaty would likely have to be renegotiated during every change of power in a nation, SNG member Rhiya Trivedi '12.5 explained Sunday. However, the details of the "nebulous" term remain unclear.

"This represents a major setback," Trivedi admitted to the group. Right now, Obama needs to go to Copenhagen to write the best agreement he possibly can within the limits he and other leaders established Sunday, she said. The work can and will be continued in Mexico City.

SNG member Nate Troutman Blumenshine '10 initially expressed some concern with advocating Obama's attendance to Copenhagen rather than protesting his decision not to pursue a legally binding decision.

"[Obama] has to prove he is the guy that represents real change," Blumenshine said. "We need to take

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 4



Maggie Khuu

Members of the Sunday Night Group (SNG) break off into committees to help prepare for the December climate conference in Copenhagen.

Liebowitz honored in Time Magazine top 10

By Kathryn DeSutter

STAFF WRITER

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz has been recognized by Time Magazine as one of the top ten college presidents in the country.

In an article that appeared in last week's issue of Time, Liebowitz was recognized for his commitment to achieving carbon neutrality at the College and also for his willingness to embrace student proposals.

The article, which described Middlebury as a "leafy liberal-arts school," focused mostly on the environmental initiatives of the campus. Time highlighted Liebowitz's work to "convince a skeptical board of trustees that going green was the right decision for Middlebury." The article went on to describe Middlebury as "at the head of the pack" and praised Liebowitz for establishing policy that has made Middlebury "one of the greenest schools in the U.S."

Liebowitz explained that he

was unaware of the top ten ranking when he spoke with the Time reporter. When asked about his initial response to the ranking, Liebowitz said he "laughed."

"The interview had been about Middlebury's commitment to environmental sustainability," said Liebowitz.

Although the actual purpose of the article may have surprised him, Liebowitz was eager to turn over the recognition to the students who initiated the environmental projects on campus. He praised the "foresight and passion" of the group that came to him a few years ago during open office hours and asked to present their ideas for carbon neutrality in front of the trustees. Li-

SEE LIEBOWITZ, PAGE 4



College unsure of biofuel's origins

By Kara Shurmantine

NEWS EDITOR

Since the successful opening of the College's biomass gasification plant last January, community members raised questions about the plant's impact on Vermont forests as well as the overall environmental integrity of the biomass initiative.

The plant currently receives three truckloads of woodchips daily from loggers and mills within a 75-mile radius. However, because a private contractor — Cousineau Forest Products — mediates the process, the specific sources of the woodchips are unknown. Though the chips may well be procured using sustainable forestry methods, it is equally likely that they are not.

Furthermore, if the biomass plant continues to be successful and inspires the construction of other plants in the area, environmental concerns exist about the capacity of local forests to support increased harvesting.

Stafford Professor of Public Policy, Political Science and Environmental Studies Chris Klyza and his environmental studies senior seminar have been investigating the biofuel's sources and developing a set of standards for the procurement of this fuel.

The problem of potentially exhausting local resources has been addressed by the willow project, an experiment wherein nine acres of willow trees were planted — in a plot on Route 125, just west of

campus — through a joint effort with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) as a potential source for steadier and more sustainable fuel.

"We're still in a learning mode as to how to make [the plant] work as best as it possibly can," said Jack Byrne, director of sustainability integration. "There's a whole bunch of practical questions to be answered."

Plant relies on woodchips from unknown suppliers

Perhaps the most important of these unanswered questions in-

SEE WILLOW, PAGE 2

Strategic Plan aims remain unchanged

By Tim O'Grady

STAFF WRITER

In May 2006, the Middlebury College Board of Trustees unanimously approved a strategic plan, entitled "Knowledge without Boundaries," which strengthens the College's mission as an institution of higher education.

The report includes a lengthy list of recommendations that seek to improve certain elements of the College. These recommendations were divided into five categories: "shaping the student body," "enhancing community," "curriculum and faculty," "Middlebury's graduate school and specialized programs," and "campus, infrastructure and environment." Over the past three and a half years, the College has re-

leased progress reports that highlight significant developments made with the strategic plan's agenda. The most recent update was released in May 2009, summarizing the progress made from the period between December 2008 to May 2009. A facet of the plan with utmost importance to the College is expanding the socioeconomic diversity of the student body by providing ample financial aid for qualified students. By reducing the loan component of the financial-aid packages, the College has been able to remain competitive with other peer institutions. "One of the highest priorities of the strategic plan is to enhance financial aid," said

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 4

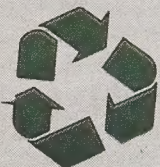


Saila Huusko, Photo Editor

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Student performers light up the stage with their creative dance routine during the annual International Student Organization (ISO) show, which took place Nov. 13 in the McCullough Social Space.

this week



Good Point Recycling

Check out one of the largest local locations for recycling old electronic parts, page 5.



Julia Alvarez coffee

Get a tour of the writer-in-residence's coffee plantation, page 13.

Landscape art

Art students showcase the green environment in a series of landscapes, page 20.





overseas briefing

by Kaity Potak '11

DAKAR—Apart from figuring out every method possible to prepare a banana, learning the myriad ways one can eat a mango or a grapefruit, discovering the custard apple, and having a ten-minute game of circumlocution/charades with the man at my favorite fruit stand only to learn that clementine in French, is, brace yourself...*clementine*, I have learned in the last three months here in Dakar how to eat around the bowl.

Basically, in a sentence, it is every rule of politesse that we are taught as kids in the United States systematically turned on its head. Eating on the floor? Check. Eating with your hands? Check. Actually, that's a lie; you may only eat with one hand: the right. The left is reserved for other, dirtier tasks. (Use your imagination to fill in the blanks.) Spitting food on the floor if you don't want it? Oh yeah, baby.

You can steal other people's food from across the bowl, you can lick your fingers and you can leave the "table" whenever you want. It's truly a glorious system.

Okay, but really. Eating around the bowl with my host family each night is something that I've come to love. Actually, I might have fallen in love with it at first sight. It's amazing how truly shared everything is.

My family eats with spoons sometimes, but my host mom always uses her hands and it is her job to divvy up the vegetables and meat so that everybody gets some. If we're eating *ceebujën* (the national dish of Senegal, which translates from Wolof into, literally, "rice and fish") she makes sure that I get enough fish and carrots. I'm still sort of shy around the bowl, although my endless search for any kind of vegetables has encouraged my assertiveness.

I've developed a different sort of relationship with food here. Sometimes I think they put vegetables in dishes simply for decoration. A dish is unveiled and it looks perfect for about 12 seconds, then all of the vegetables are put swiftly put in another bowl. The rejection pile is what I thrive off of. Oh, the vitamins. And fish? Simply a synonym for protein. Rice is there just because it's tasty and makes one feel full. We all huddle together on the ground... arms entangle, knees bang together, bread crumbs flutter around like confetti. Sometimes I don't know what I'm eating. Usually I ask but sometimes I quietly accept ignorance as the better option. Sometimes I contemplate what the Senegalese would do if faced with something like the food pyramid. It's nearly always amazing. This onion sauce that my sister makes that we put on practically everything? Absolutely bomb. She knows what's up. And who *wouldn't* want to finish a meal with their family with mangoes, watermelon, bananas, and bissap juice? Approximately seventeen cups of sugar per ounce of delicious berry juice, I would guess — oh yeah.

By the time dinner is done at about 10:30, I am ready to crawl into my little mosquito-netted bed, make a bedtime wish that the electricity will stay on throughout the night to allow the fan to continue to run, and fall asleep to the sound of the call to prayer from the mosque down the street. It's a beautiful thing.

Willow experiment may offset deforestation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

involves the source of the chips currently incinerated daily at the plant. Early in the original planning process, before the decision was made in 2006 to construct the plant, members involved had intended to fuel it using a single supplier, ideally certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), a sustainable forestry non-profit organization. However, they quickly learned that no such supplier exists; in fact, virtually no FSC-certified chips can be found anywhere near the College.

"That's how we ended up making the decision to go with the broker because, if you're going to build a system like this and you don't have chips, it's silly," said Byrne. Cousineau, the broker, works with loggers and millers within a 75-mile radius of the campus to ensure the College's biomass plant receives the amount of fuel necessary to perform successfully. Loggers and millers produce chips as a secondary activity, behind the other forestry activities they might be engaged in: thinning trees to help the forest grow more or logging commercially, for example.

Cousineau's structure, however, makes it difficult to track down which specific companies produce which quantity of chips. As Klyza explained, the broker "uses sub-brokers." They receive chips, for example, "from Jack the chipper, and Jack the chipper's located here, but Jack the chipper might be getting it from 10 different places, and Cousineau doesn't know that."

"Because there are many middlemen in the supply chain, finding the location of the cuts is difficult," concurred Patrick Johnson '10, a member of Klyza's senior seminar.

Cousineau offered to tackle the extensive legwork and paperwork necessary to determine the chips' sources, but for a fee. The College has not engaged Cousineau specifically on this issue.

This lack of transparency due to the complicated structure of the supplier-broker relationship has rendered impossible any efforts to trace the chips' sources and thereby determine the integrity of suppliers' forestry practices.

We can grow a very green and almost organic fuel.

—Tom Corbin

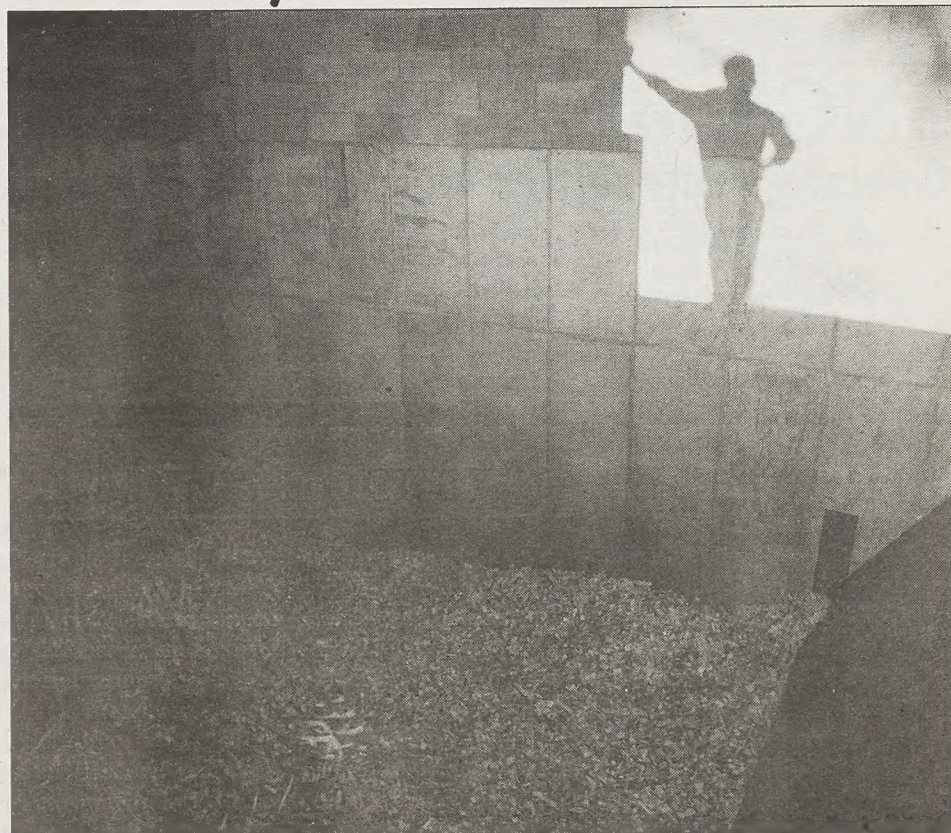
"At this point, we're trusting that the people that are supplying us with chips are practicing sustainable forestry," said Byrne. "But we also want to move toward being able to verify who our suppliers are and what practices they are following, because certainly if somebody is doing a terrible job, we don't want to buy chips from them."

Klyza remains uncertain of the chips' sources. "We don't know, it could be that our suppliers are already doing great," he said. "One of the great unknowns is that we could be at 50 percent, 70 percent, in terms of these standards for sustainability for forest harvesting. We just don't know. If it's higher, then that's great news, and that means everything's working well... If not, we're going to set forth recommendations and try to work up to those standards."

The members of the environmental studies seminar have not yet unraveled the various chip suppliers involved in powering the biomass plant; the process remains in continual development. The students are currently developing recommendations in relation to the fuel-sourcing issue, which are scheduled for presentation at the Dec. 3 environmental studies colloquium.

"The goal is not to be punitive," Klyza continued. "We're starting down the path of trying to get a better handle on carbon outputs involved with this."

"Middlebury has a responsibility to know where its biomass is coming from, to set high standards for its sustainability, and to monitor the sites where its biomass is being harvested," said Sierra Murdoch



Nicholas Sohl, Photo Editor

A worker at the biomass facility stands over a recent shipment of woodchips to heat the College.

'09.5, another student in Klyza's class. "Doing so, in the end, would deepen the college's environmental reputation."

Experiment seeks to introduce willows as potentially greener fuel source

The willow project has been in development for the past two years. SUNY-ESF scientists, in collaboration with the business services department under director Tom Corbin, planted the trees both in anticipation of future exhaustion of local hardwood resources if the biomass idea gains popularity, as well as in consideration of willow's singular advantages as a fuel.

"We wanted to control the green nature of the fuel," said Corbin. "With willows, we can grow a very green and almost organic fuel."

Willows are attractive as a biomass fuel source because they are relatively cheap, have a quick, three-year maturation cycle and are

minimally intrusive to the ecosystems in which they grow. After harvesting, a parcel of willows can

be immediately replanted and harvested three years later. In order for the willows to be viable as a fuel source, however, the crop would need to yield between 25 and 30 tons of biomass per acre. If the current experiment goes well, the team behind the project plans to establish three 400-acre parcels, with one parcel harvested each year in a rotating cycle. With this scheme, the willows could provide around 10,000 tons of biomass annually — roughly half the amount currently processed by the plant.

"If we reach our per-acre yield and can plant 400 acres a year for three years within a few miles of the College," Corbin said, "we will have created a fuel source that requires very little carbon to maintain, harvest and transport. At this point, I am optimistic the willows will reach the per-acre yield we need."

According to Byrne, the willow project was developed largely as "a response to the idea that if we're successful with our wood system and inspire others to go down that path, more wood would be coming out of the forest." As part of the planning process, the College hired the Biomass Energy Resource Center, a non-profit organization based in Montpelier, to perform a study of the net capacity of forest resources available for use as biofuels in Addison and Rutland counties. The result was 160,000 tons annually — the on-campus biomass plant, therefore, constitutes a full eighth of the region's capacity.

"That's a comfortable margin unless more and more people turn towards the fuel," Byrne said. "We wanted to ease the demand on the local forests."

The trial batch of willows located on

Route 125 is scheduled for harvest next fall, when the willows have reached maturation, and will then need to go through a test burn to determine their efficiency as a fuel.

Byrne identified several unanswered questions with which the team will need to grapple.

"Are they a good fuel to burn in the biomass system?" he said. "Would we grow them on our own land, or contract with farmers? If so, how many? We could rent some of our land to a farmer and have him grow it for us; there might be some farmers who want to get out of dairy but still want to work the land, and this could be an option for them. Would we be willing to contract with a farmer who wants to work only 100 acres — we probably wouldn't agree to 50, but maybe 100? What's the threshold there? And since we're trying to grow the willows without pesticides or herbicides, what's the best kind of green fertilizer — can we do it with manure? What's the best combination of willow species?"

Byrne acknowledged that the College will be farther along in the discussion process closer to the time of the preliminary willow harvest. "There will probably be a better sense of where we're going to go with it at the first of next year," he said. "We haven't really looked at all the data thoroughly yet."

Biomass plant stimulates the local economy

The willow project, if successfully implemented, would help contribute to one positive side effect of the biomass initiative: stimulation of the local economy. Willow stock could be cultivated in local nurseries. Farmers looking for an additional source of revenue could become involved in the willow harvesting process, even making use of the corn harvesters they already possess. A simple modification to the machine's cutting head can transform a corn harvester into an efficient willow harvester.

The biomass plant, even without the added impact of the willows, already has had a positive impact on the local economy. The College new position as chip purchaser will likely inject around \$800,000 annually into local forestry, a troubled industry.

Both Klyza's class and the willow project seek to examine enduring questions about the sustainability of biomass and its impact on the local environment. However, the dialogue surrounding the biomass plant is a continually evolving, dynamic conversation in which no definitive answers have yet been posed.

"There had been some conversations about these kinds of issues before we decided to build the biomass plant, and then they kind of fell by the wayside when we went to build it," said Klyza. "So we're now bringing them back up again. We don't think we're going to offer a solution, but rather a first step that's going to help continue the College down the path of sustainability improvement."

Murdoch uses words to fight coal

By Jaime Fuller

News Editor

"We would often just sit on their porches, they would offer me cornbread and Coke, and we'd just talk for hours on end."

For Sierra Murdoch '09.5, this year's undergraduate Environmental Journalism Fellow, this routine was the key to excellent reporting during her time in southwest Virginia this summer.

Murdoch is reporting on mountaintop removal mining — a process that involves blasting away the top of a mountain in order to reach the coal seams underneath — and how the longtime residents of the area are standing up against the degradation of their land.

Many of the people protesting this form of coal mining are former union coal miners who have "a long history of fighting against the injustices of coal," said Murdoch.

During her time with these homegrown environmentalists, Murdoch was glad to witness that some progress was being made against this type of mining, especially when the Environmental Protection Agency denied permits to some potential mines after hearing the emotional testimony of some of these miners.

"It's been a cool story to follow," said Murdoch, seeing the direct link between their voices and political action. It's been a lot of fun."

The Environmental Journalism Fellowship began in 2007, with a group of 10 young journalists, including two Middlebury seniors. The program was funded by an anonymous gift of \$1.5 million, which helps pay for the fellows' stipend — \$10,000 for graduates and \$4,000 for Middlebury students — and the retreats that the fellows participate in at the beginning and close of the program each year.

This year's batch of fellows reports on a diverse range of topics and comes from a diverse array of perspectives. They hail from as near as New Haven, Conn., and as far as Beijing, China. The attention-grabbing titles of the fellows' projects show the breadth of the program's reach — Nick Miroff of Arlington, Va., is researching the environmental legacy of the Cuban Revolution, and Christopher Weber of Chicago is writing about what should be done with factories abandoned in the collapse of the automotive industry."

"The fellows have gone on to do astonishing things," wrote Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben, who directs the program with Christopher Shaw, visiting lecturer in English and American Literature. "[Some of them end up] publishing pieces in many of the foremost publications in the country, even though we are in a very tough environment for freelance

journalism."

The fellows meet for the first time at the Breadloaf School of English in the fall, where they are joined by a distinguished environmental journalist who they may probe with questions about their experience reporting on environmental issues. This year's visiting reporter was Ted Conover, a well-known writer of narrative nonfiction and frequent contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly* and other popular magazines. Ross Gelbspan, Alan Weisman, William Finnegan and Rebecca Solnit offered their advice to the fellows in previous years of the program. Former *Times* reporter Keith Schneider will join the fellows at their last meeting in the spring.

"Myself being one of the least experienced at the table," Murdoch said, "it was really interesting for me to hear pitches from already experienced journalists — people at the start of their career who have a sense of what creates a good story. I was in heaven spending an entire week just talking about writing and stories and environmentalism."

The program culminates in a weeklong stay at the Monterey Institute of International



Eleanor Horowitz, Photo Editor
Murdoch reports on mining for her fellowship.

Studies in California. The fellows will share their stories with each other and with McKibben and Shaw, who by then already will have begun gearing to pick next year's fellows after the May 15 application deadline.

According to McKibben, they have to sort through 150 to 200 applications each year, a task both time-consuming and difficult for the pair.

"I hope that [the number of applications] doesn't grow because it's heartbreaking to sort through them," wrote McKibben in an e-mail. "I have all kinds of new respect for the Middlebury Admissions Office!"

Shaw gave an informational session on

Nov. 18 for upperclassmen interested in pursuing a career in environmental journalism, or who are at least eager to share an environmental story with the world. Each year, the fellowship invites one or two undergraduates to participate in the program, and Middlebury graduates are invited to apply as well. Emily Peterson, a former fellow who now works as an assistant for the program in Washington, D.C., had some advice for prospective applicants.

"I would encourage interested applicants to think deeply about how their academic, professional, or personal experience makes them uniquely qualified to report on their proposed story," wrote Peterson in an e-mail. "It's necessary to become an expert in your subject area, and then to communicate your story with a sense of passion and ease that will inspire even a lay person to take interest in your cause."

Murdoch also strongly encourages anyone interested in the environment or journalism to apply for the program.

"This has been an incredible opportunity for me," said Murdoch, "as someone who hasn't had too many bylines yet, to go through the rigorous process from beginning to end of doing solid reporting and producing a well-written project, and hopefully having it published."

Murdoch plans to go back to southwest Virginia during Thanksgiving break to do some more reporting, and she will spend February and March after her graduation finishing up her work and recording some oral histories from the veteran environmentalists.

"The stories are particularly powerful in the men's own words," said Murdoch, "since they have such rich accents."

After she completes her story, Murdoch hopes to continue writing about the environment, and although the job market for journalists may be slim, she has no qualms about the reams of content still left to write.

"There are so many interesting stories that need to be told, are waiting to be told, about Appalachia," said Murdoch, "and I would love to have the chance to tell them."

Prior to winning this fellowship, Murdoch spent a semester working for Power Past Coal, a grassroots organization she helped found with 40 other grassroots activists who want to end our reliance on energy from burning coal. For her work with this organization, Murdoch was one of six recipients of the 2009 Brower Youth Award, for which she will receive a \$3,000 cash prize.

"The project was really stressful," said Murdoch. "So it was almost a relief to get the fellowship because I could spend my summer sitting on people's porches and just listening and learning, and I didn't have to organize."

green briefs

By Kara Shurmantine, News Editor

Maryland college cuts carbon by 80 percent

St. Mary's College cut its carbon dioxide outputs by 80 percent last year thanks to a series of student initiatives. Students purchased Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to offset 100 percent of their carbon footprint due to electricity use.

Several new buildings on campus introduced geothermal HVAC systems which will cut emissions by several hundred tons. Other buildings have increased the efficiency of windows to both save money and reduce the College's carbon footprint.

Members of the community believe the changes made at St. Mary's should inspire members of the community. To solve climate change requires that everyone make sacrifices and look at their own habits, according to David Kung, associate professor of mathematics.

"The students at the college are part of a nationwide movement that is redefining the way society views environmentalism," said Emily Saari '12, co-president of the college's Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC).

—The Baynet

Haverford College to add environmental studies

After years of discussion and a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Haverford College will add an environmental studies program.

Members of a faculty committee submitted their application to the foundation and received a \$1.5 million grant to start the program. The College will attempt to raise three times that amount through fundraising in the coming three years.

The new program will combine elements of a science and humanities education. A faculty committee will determine what courses will form the program and how many faculty members to hire.

Discussions about adding a similar program have been ongoing for years. The College hired its first professor for the program recently. "I think that a liberal arts college is the perfect place for this sort of thing. My kind of research fits really well into interdisciplinary, small liberal arts college environment," Professor Helen White said.

"We are still in the data-gathering mode, trying to hear from students, alumni in environmental careers," Professor Robert Scarrow said. "We are asking faculty which of the courses they already teach have environmental implications, because, although we are bringing in new faculty members, we think the program needs more than three faculty members

—The Bi-College News

Williams students fast for climate change

Environmental student leaders at Williams College will fast through upcoming climate talks in Copenhagen to promote immediate action to stem the effects of climate change.

The students joined with other environmental leaders throughout the world in the Climate Justice Fast following the conclusion of the Nov. 6 climate conference in Barcelona.

The group will organize a relay of fasting so that students do not have to continually fast for the duration of the event. Organizers predict the fast will last 42 days at the very least.

Members of the Thursday Night Group, the Williams environmental club, will wear t-shirts to show their support for the effort.

—The Hamilton Spectator

SGA improves online ride board

By Hilary Hall

Staff Writer

On Sunday Nov. 15, Anne Runkel '11 and the newly created ride board ad hoc committee proposed to the Student Government Association (SGA) a new resolution regarding the electronic ride board. The resolution suggests that, as many students need transportation on and off campus and many students travel to the same places but at varied times, the committee should better advertise the already existing electronic ride board and suggest that students use it with more frequency.

"Increasing the awareness and use of the ride board can help students who need rides as well as students who are willing to give rides," wrote Runkel in an e-mail. "One of the most pressing issues for student life is a lack of affordable transportation to and from Middlebury."

In a rural community like Middlebury, it is certainly challenging for students who do not have cars to figure out transportation. Middlebury Transit offers individualized student rides and also coordinates for students to share a van when going to the same location for a discounted price.

"This [entire] issue came about when the SGA was discussing the SGA-funded and organized shuttles to the airport during

Thanksgiving break and how the SGA could create a similar system for winter break," Runkel wrote. "Unfortunately, due to the different dates and times that students leave campus during the end-of-the-semester breaks, it is difficult to arrange affordable SGA shuttles."

The current ride board, which is available on campus at go/rides, was created around four years ago by the SGA. The site is fully functional and available to all Middlebury students; however, very few students currently use it. At press time, only 11 postings exist on the ride board, all of them students requesting rides, mainly to the tri-state area. But considering that many students do have cars at Middlebury, the possibilities for the site could be endless with a little promotion and increased awareness.

"Students willing to give rides can benefit from having the cost of their gasoline split," wrote Runkel. "Students needing a ride can benefit from getting a ride at an affordable price. The community can benefit from an environmental standpoint — increased carpooling [equals] a lower carbon footprint."

In theory, the ride board is the perfect solution to student transportation issues. In practice, though, it seems questionable. Many students, like Alison Thompson '11.5, a northern New Jersey resident who has a car on campus and drives home for most breaks,

are not completely sold on the idea.

"I would likely not give a ride to another student if I did not previously know them," Thompson said.

"I wouldn't feel comfortable driving someone I didn't know," agreed Erika Berger '11.5, who lives in Philadelphia and has a car as well.

Given the unsuccessful attempts at other student-to-student online endeavors like Middbay.com, which also offered ride shares, it seems less than likely that the ride board initiative will pan out the way the Runkel hopes.

Another issue with the resolution is whether or not, if the ride board is in fact successful, it will affect local businesses like Middlebury Transit, upon which some students currently depend for rides.

"It is possible that Middlebury Transit would see a slight decrease in students using their service; however, it is unlikely that the company would be significantly affected," said Runkel. "Middlebury Transit services the entire Middlebury area and will still have many student customers who are unable to arrange a ride or choose not to use the ride board."

It remains to be seen whether or not the resolution ultimately will affect anyone in the Middlebury community — both at the College and in the greater area.

Students hope to inspire Obama to go to Copenhagen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what we can get [out of Copenhagen], but show we're disappointed. Our job is still to be the voice [saying] that aggressive climate policy is a priority."

While Blumenshine acknowledges that it could be politically harmful if Obama goes to Copenhagen with goals of a binding treaty and fails, he hopes to show that failing to deliver on real change would be equally detrimental in gaining votes.

Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben agrees that Obama's attendance will be falling short of what the current climate situation demands.

"It will be as much spin as substance, [but] we need to get Obama engaged in this fight somehow, and this may be as good a way as any," he wrote in an e-mail.

Despite these setbacks, however, Brazil's announcement Friday that it would voluntarily cut carbon emissions by at least 36 percent by 2020 offers some hope for the upcoming talks.

Environmental Minister Carlos Minc hopes that this step will lead other nations to follow suit, the AFP reports.

Trivedi notes, however, that this move is indicative of a greater problem.

"Brazil's voluntary cuts represent a greater, graver problem, which is that developing countries are believing less and less that the developed will do the necessary," she said in an e-mail. "Despite the fact that they have no historical responsibility for the problem ... developing countries are starting to do ev-

everything they can and more to mitigate and adapt to climate change."

The focus of SNG's work this week, however, remained mobilizing the Middlebury student body to call Obama and express their expectation that he attend the upcoming talks. They had four key modes of reaching students.

First, SNG members created a Facebook event to reach a large number of students and publicize the need to call Obama.

Second, SNG reached out to other student organizations to help motivate their respective bases.

"This is not an issue specific to just green fingers," Moriel Rothman '11 explained. All student organizations should be involved, because this meeting has the power to affect everyone.

Third, SNG members passed out information cards at the dining halls explaining how, when and why to call Obama.

Fourth, SNG members performed a skit Wednesday in Proctor and Ross dining halls, giving a mock-Obama a plane ticket to Copenhagen.

McKibben believes that calling Obama may be effective, but is not entirely convinced the President can be swayed on this issue.

"Obama doesn't have to worry too much about the politics of global warming because most environmentalists will vote for him regardless," McKibben wrote in an e-mail. "But he does know that among young voters last time, climate change was an issue of overriding importance, and also that they're the ones who were out knocking doors for him. So if

he's vulnerable to any pitch, it's one like this."

Associate Professor of Political Science Bert Johnson seconds McKibben, also remaining unsure what effect phone calls could have.

"In general, elected officials will want

to keep an eye on the overall views of their constituents," and phone calls can help alert Obama to those views, he said. However, "the president's ultimate decision about whether to attend the talks will, of course, depend on many factors besides the protests or calls."



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

WHAT A RA RA RIOT

The band Ra Ra Riot entertains a student crowd Nov. 14 in the McCullough Social Space. The group was the final act of the Campus Crawl, which featured four student groups.

College remains committed to strategic plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dean of the College Tim Spears. Kathryn Benson '13 believes that offering financial assistance for those with need should be something that the college expands upon in the future. As well as offering students generous financial aid packages throughout their four years at Middlebury, Benson thinks that the College should assist students with travel expenses. "Perhaps having funds for students to tap into so that they could get home easier and more frequently would be beneficial to the Middlebury community," said Benson. Another recommendation proposed by the strategic plan seeks to "identify and recruit more top-rated academic applicants."

Kevin Redmon '09.5 believes that this recommendation is misguided and has altered the types of students that the College

admits. By focusing solely on applicants' grades and extracurricular participation, Redmon has noticed that the College is beginning to lose its unique student body. "The composition of the student body has changed in four years," said Redmon. "It's gotten profoundly less weird, less quirky and off-beat." A more controversial recommendation set out by the strategic plan is one that seeks to "limit the use of community housing by students." This recommendation was prompted due to concerns about driving up rent in the town and the student personalities lost when seniors live off campus. "We are a residential liberal arts college and part of our mission is to foster a sense of community on campus," said Spears. As of May 2009, the College has not made significant progress with this recommendation due partially to insufficient funding needed to build new residen-

tial buildings and issues of over-crowding in pre-existing housing options. Although the strategic plan states that the college should limit the number of students living off-campus to 60, more than 90 seniors are living in community housing this academic year. Redmon lives in a house off-campus and is relieved that the College has not addressed this recommendation yet. "I'm glad they haven't done much work on that because we love living in our house," said Redmon. The strategic plan focused on strengthening the commons systems by proposing infrastructural plans that would unite commons buildings together as a whole. This goal has not made much progress yet due to financial limitations and student disapproval of the four-year commons system, which limited juniors and seniors to live in commons housing options. The current 4-2 commons system was a reaction to student outcry of the previous system in which students remain affiliated with their commons for their four years at Middlebury, but can live anywhere on campus after their sophomore year. The trustees acknowledged student concerns and attempted to incorporate these issues into the plan. The numerous recommendations seeking to tackle environmental issues developed out of the strong sense of student environmentalism had been present on campus for several years prior to the drafting of the strategic plan. Another recommendation encourages the strengthening

of the college's environmental leadership and reputation. This part of the strategic plan has prompted successful environmental initiatives, such as the construction of the biomass energy plant, the "greening" of Hillcrest Environmental Center and the College's goal of carbon neutrality by 2016. Spears notes that the strategic plan did not necessarily create these environmental initiatives, but rather fostered their development. "These [environmental] initiatives have evolved and bubbled up and then become institutionalized," said Spears. The economic recession has hindered the progress of the several goals set out by the strategic plan. For example, one recommendation calls for a "senior work project" as a graduation requirement starting with the Class of 2013. The College originally intended to hire more staff members to aid seniors with their senior work projects; however, given the economic situation, the College is looking for more effective ways to make senior work an integral part of the Middlebury experience.

Spears emphasized that although financial constraints have limited the execution of certain elements of the strategic plan, the ultimate mission of the plan that was delineated three years ago has remained the same. "For the most part, the goals have not changed, but what has changed perhaps is the pace at which we can achieve those goals given the financial situation," said Spears.

Liebowitz recognized for environmental initiatives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

liebowitz was impressed by their commitment to the project, and after months of working with other students and professors, the group made a presentation in front of the trustees. As a result of these efforts, Middlebury now has a stated goal of carbon neutrality by 2016 and has built a biomass gasification plant that has reduced the College's carbon footprint by 40 percent.

Students welcomed the national recognition of Middlebury's president. "I hope it shows other people that Middlebury has global plans," said Audrey Tolbert '13. "We're not just a small liberal arts school in Vermont; we want to be a leader in the environmental movement for other schools here in the U.S. and internationally."

Jaya Ghosh '12, an environmental studies major, hoped that the article will "re-inspire the goal of neutrality" among Middlebury students. "2016 is not that far away," said Ghosh, "and after the opening of the biomass plant, many of the remaining initiatives have become concentrated among administrators."

Liebowitz hoped that Middlebury's

achievements will inspire other institutions not only to develop a commitment to sustainability, but also to "tap into the free resource of student talent." Even in light of tight budgets and tough economic times, Liebowitz urged other institutions not to "look only at the bottom line, but to consider the social cost" of environmental initiatives.

public safety log

November 9 - November 16, 2009

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
Unknown	11:12 a.m.	Theft from public space	Banquet tables	Le Chateau	Referred to Dean of Commons
11/09/2009	8:00 p.m.	Theft from residence hall	—	108 South Main Street	Referred to Commons Dean
11/13/2009	11:27 p.m.	Alcohol citation	Possession by minor	Sidewalk	Referred to Commons Dean
11/13/2009	11:57 p.m.	Alcohol citation	Disrespect of persons / MPD	Milliken	Referred to Commons Dean
11/15/2009	2:32 a.m.	Alcohol citation	Possession by minor	Sidewalk	Referred to Commons Dean
11/16/2009	2:39 p.m.	Theft from residence hall	Chair	Ross Tower	Referred to Commons Dean

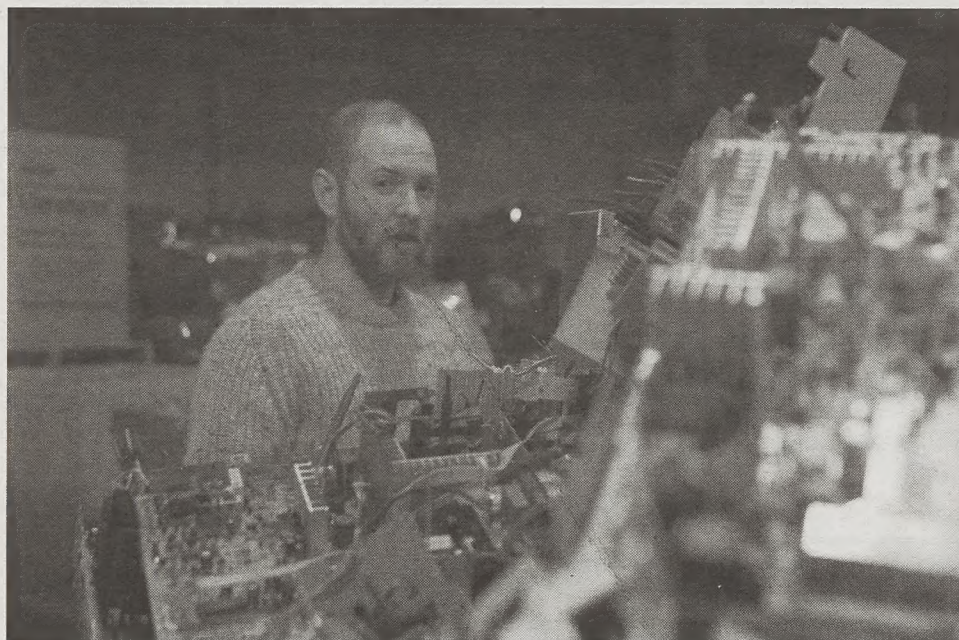
The Department of Public Safety reported giving eight alcohol citations between Nov. 9 2009 and Nov. 16, 2009.

GOOD POINT RECYCLING

By Grady Ross

STAFF WRITER

Local e-waste facility sets standard for safe electronics disposal and re-use



Photos by Nicolas Sohl, Photo Editor

In a warehouse off Exchange Street in Middlebury, towers of old computer parts sit awaiting shipment to Malaysia. Last year, over four million pounds of such components made their way through the warehouse doors.

This is the extent of Middlebury's Good Point Recycling, one of the nation's leading electronics recycling operations. Dealing with anything from cathode ray tubes (CRTs) to painted circuit boards to computer hard drives, the company strives to provide affordable computer and television recycling and, by extension, affordable technology to poor areas through reuse. Established in 2003 by company president Robin Ingenthron, Good Point has grown with the increasing demand for the particularity of its services.

"There are lots of different components [of electronic waste] that an auto scrap yard or any other sort of salvage yard wouldn't be set up for," said Colin Davis '03, vice president of Good Point Recycling. "There are lots of different markets you have to pay attention to, different sorts of buyers. It tends to be a specialized business."

The need for such specialization is a recent phenomenon, coming to head at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) where Ingenthron helped write the country's first piece of legislation on e-waste regulation. The state enacted this in the form of a waste ban on CRTs that took effect on April 1, 2000, making it illegal for Massachusetts waste disposal facilities to accept computer monitors and television screens built with the tubes.

"MassDEP was looking to pass the legislation because they were looking at the switch to digital for television," explained Davis. "So they were [asking themselves], 'Once people start throwing out all these televisions, what are we going to do? Do we want these things in a landfill?' So they did a study and they decided that they did want to do a waste ban. In order to do that, though, you have to figure out a place for everything to go."

E-waste recycling was among the proposed solutions to this problem, but met initial resistance.

"To protect consumers from radiation, these things have barium and lead in them," explained Davis, "and so these consultants were saying we needed to treat this stuff as hazardous waste, which would cost tons of money."

But Good Point maintains that the best way to manage this is through e-waste recycling, taking a "cradle to cradle" approach in their dedication to reuse.

"They can be reused to a certain extent," said Davis of the CRTs. "Samsung Corning was taking these back and making new CRT monitors out of them, which they wanted to do because this is a less expensive feedstock than pulling [the materials] out of the earth."

But Good Point and other e-waste recycling facilities are encountering opposition. Davis cited the Basel Action Network (BAN), a Seattle-based organization concerned with environmental justice and human rights violations in the realm of waste disposal.

"They've taken a very strict interpretation of the Basel Convention, which regulates material moving from developed to non-developed countries," explained Davis. "Basically, they don't want the U.S. or other developed countries dumping their trash on poor countries."

"This is great," continued Davis, "but BAN has taken a very aggressive stance. Effectively what they've done is killed the last glass-to-glass practice. No companies can ship to Samsung Corning anymore, even though it's the best environmental solution to this stuff. It's a 'cutting off your nose to spite your face' sort of deal."

Good Point claims to have come up with an alternative to the dumping that groups like the BAN resist. The company refers to this as fair trade recycling, comparing it to the responsible production strategies of coffee farms.

"BAN is taking pictures of little kids sitting on piles of trash saying the U.S. is dumping all of its trash and therefore we should stop exports altogether," explained Davis. "We're saying, 'yes, we agree that there are bad actors in our industry, but we shouldn't be throwing the baby out with the bathwater.' There are good ways to do this and we've identified economic incentives for people working with us to do the right thing."

Fortunately for Ingenthron and his team, Good Point maintains a close relationship with a refurbishing plant in Malaysia, where the Samsung facility is located. This relationship

allows Good Point to pursue glass-to-glass reuse where BAN has prevented other recycling facilities from doing so.

"We screen out probably 40 or 50 percent of monitors that can't be reused and ship them over there," Davis said. "They recycle the load in Malaysia, and they send all the glass to Samsung."

The relationship with the Malaysian plant was fostered in the spirit of Good Point's social mission, which it pursues as readily as its environmental undertaking.

"[Ingenthron] cares very deeply about people in developing countries having access to affordable technologies," said Davis of his colleague, who served in the Peace Corps. "He thinks [technology] is really important for them to break that cycle of poverty. The way that they're going to do that is not by going out and buying new computer equipment."

The Malaysian factory, and a facility that Good Point now co-owns with a women's group in Mexico, allows people in poorer countries to close the digital divide, providing functioning refurbished goods.

"We're trying to develop that sort of infrastructure, so that these sorts of things can be done and people [in the U.S.] can be at ease that it's happening in the right way," said Davis.

Good Point believes they can create social change on a local level as well, providing jobs and technical training to Vermonters.

"In round terms, recycling creates 10 more jobs per ton than landfilling," estimated Davis. "Reuse creates 100 times more jobs than landfilling." Additionally, Davis pointed out the skills that Good Point's employees develop on the job, claiming these skills are more beneficial than those they could take away from other entry-level jobs.

But Ingenthron and his colleagues have encountered difficulties in seeing this mission to a successful end, not least of which are financial.

"This is a low margin business — it's pennies on the pound," said Davis.

Additionally, as states follow in Massachusetts' example, controversies are beginning to surround the e-waste recycling business.

"Many [states] are calling for involvement from the manufacturers themselves. It's called product stewardship or manufacturers' responsibility — basically, just making manufacturers responsible for their recycling costs." This initiative has been unsuccessful so far.

"A waste ban is one thing, but trying to institute a really complicated system where who's responsible for what is based on incoming tonnage and all these different things, is another story," said Davis.

Furthermore, Good Point fears involvement from a government organization that does not understand the details of its specific business. Vermont is considering such legislation and Good Point is wary of pledging support.

"We're concerned that it happens in the right way," said Davis. "We're not saying that we're totally against product stewardship, but we don't want someone coming in here telling us how to run our business without knowing how it's done."

Instead, Good Point would like to take product stewardship into its own hands, keeping it out of the legislature. The company launched a pilot program with Sony, seeking solutions to this problem.

"One of the major concerns with all these state programs is that it's very difficult for a company like Sony to know that they're actually paying for their stuff [to be recycled]," explained Davis. "They don't have someone in the plant watching to see that they're just charging for Sony. They might be charging for Magnavox and Panasonic." Good Point Recycling has developed a tracking system with Sony that allows the electronics company to insure that they are paying only to recycle their own products. Having seen success with the pilot program, Good Point now signed contracts with Sharp, Panasonic and Toshiba.

"That's something we've done that's novel in the industry," said Davis. "It's helping to lower recycling costs because the original equipment manufacturers are picking up the tab."

In the face of challenges, innovations like this keep Davis hopeful about the future of the company. "We're going to try to continue to grow," he said. "Hopefully we'll have some success in our efforts to support export for reuse, and to support places in need."

**Follow the timeline**

Learn about major green legislation in Vermont over the past 40 years, page 6.

Paint the town green

Find out what local environmentalists have to say about greening the town, page 7.



town/gown



by Grady Ross

I spent three hours in lab last Thursday removing nodules from the roots of bean plants. I loved it. At one point, I turned to the people in my lab group and exclaimed, "This reminds me of digging for potatoes! Have you ever done that? It's so fun. Like digging for buried treasure."

Sometimes I outdo myself with the rural thing. Seriously though, potato harvests were the highlight of the two years I worked on a vegetable farm. That's not what's notable about the situation. Rather, it's my assumption that everyone would understand this particular pleasure.

A Vermont childhood has instilled an appreciation of nature within me. I don't suspect that I am unique in this. Did anyone see that sunset last Wednesday evening? Natural beauty is thrust upon Vermonters whether we like it or not. Our geographic location requires a certain level of interaction with the outdoors, which in turn demands respect.

The whole "green" concept, then, seems so basic to me, such an understood necessity. But, like the potato phenomenon, I have begun to realize that my own hands-on-the-land perspective is not necessarily applicable to everyone here, even as we find ourselves co-habiting in the heart of what I would say is the most beautiful state in the country.

I do not mean to imply a holier-than-thou attitude concerning environmental issues. Rather, I think it is an essential piece of the puzzle to understand the different perspectives and priorities that people bring to the table.

There is a certain elegance to a skyscraper. Not to promote this country-bumpkin character beyond the level of humor, but I will admit that tall buildings generally captivate me. Perhaps it is the contrast to my usual surroundings, but I find cities aesthetically very exciting: the people, the cars, the art, the buildings. Cities are movement, and it is refreshing sometimes to pick up the pace. If I really wanted to take it to an overly philosophical level, I could observe that urban structures are monuments to human achievement — which, if I might say without offending the bears, is pretty amazing.

So I suppose this leaves me somewhere between a reverence for trees and a reverence for steel. How do I resolve that with my innately green conscience?

I don't really think I have to. I don't want Vermont and its landscape to become a fearful thing. I don't want to feel bad every time I go hiking, with every pine and every babbling brook pointing its finger and reminding me of the green reforms I could be instituting in my life but haven't. I want to turn the lights on in my room without hearing a daisy yelp with pain in the back of my mind. Nature shouldn't be a guilt trip.

But if we continue to clump our lifestyles into categories of "good" and "bad," I think that's where we might end up. I have a Vermont perspective. You may not. So what? It's not like the environmental movement is a consequence of some ridiculous rural vendetta against urbanites. At least, it shouldn't be. Obviously there needs to be a change, but it's not something that should intimidate us or force us into one extreme or the other.

Lastly, I hope that with this change, my children and my children's children and their children after that will get to know what it's like to unearth a potato.

The making of the 'Green' Mountain State

A timeline of Vermont's green legislation

By Elizabeth Scarinci
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Act 250

Also known as the Land Use and Development Act, Act 250 was passed in 1970 and stipulates that any large-scale development project must follow certain environmental guidelines. Nine District Environmental Commissions have the power to issue or deny a permit to developers for any project dealing with over 10 acres of land or more. The bill says that the project cannot cause undue water or air pollution, burden any existing water supply or cause unreasonably dangerous conditions to transportation, among other regulations. Almost identical regulations that were agreed upon in 1970 hold today. Only a few other states, including Hawaii and Oregon, have similar land legislation.

Efficiency Vermont

Created by the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board in 2000, Efficiency Vermont aims to reduce energy costs and help Vermonters save energy. It provides technical assistance and financial incentives to Vermont homeowners, including energy-efficient products and green services from retailers, architects and builders, among others. The organization was the first statewide provider of energy efficient services in the country. In the nine years since it began, the organization has helped Vermonters reduce their annual energy costs by more than \$31 million.

1965

1975

1985

1995

2005

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010



Bottle Bill

Vermont passed the nation's first beverage container law, otherwise known as the "Bottle Bill," in 1953. The bill banned the sale of beer in non-refillable bottles. After strong opposition from beer companies, the bill expired four years later. The next Bottle Bill passed in 1972 and essentially places a refundable deposit on containers to encourage consumers to recycle bottles after use. Vermont is one of 13 states that has similar legislation in effect today.

Farm to Plate Legislation

Democratic Representative Christopher Bray of New Haven, along with hundreds of farmers supporting him, pushed the Farm to Plate bill through legislation this February. The bill aims to map the state's local food system and develop a plan for the future to better supply Vermonters and local businesses and schools with local food. Bray speaks of a "20 to 2020" goal, in which Vermonters consume 20 percent more local foods by 2020. The legislation comes with environmental as well as economic motives. The bill will redirect the \$800 million per year that is currently being sent out of state back into the Vermont economy.

one in 8,700

where the personalities of middlebury proper are celebrated

By Deirdre Sackett
STAFF WRITER

Brighter Planet, Middlebury's only environmental awareness company, had its beginnings right here at the College on the Hill. Associate Professor of Economics Jon Isham created the company with two of his students who, for a class project, had proposed an idea for an environmental firm.

While most of the other students' proposals were merely created for a grade, "this one just took off," said Patti Prairie, CEO of Brighter Planet.

Prairie has been running Brighter Planet since 2006. Before coming to Middlebury, she held senior executive positions at IBM, American Express and BankBoston.

When asked why she decided to work for Brighter Planet, the seasoned entrepreneur said: "I thought it was an adventure! To work with students would be fun, and they didn't have business experience. My background is helping companies and I happened to live in Vermont."

As part of her duties as CEO, Prairie assists employees using her entrepreneurial skills, helping them become better businessmen in the process. Currently, Brighter Planet has 12 employees, eight of whom are recent Middlebury graduates. Tucked between the Vermont Book Shop and Vermont Beads and Fibers, the company's office resembles an attic loft, decorated with quaint artwork and cozy hardwood flooring.

As its warm and welcoming workplace would suggest, Brighter Planet emphasizes a personal approach to environmental awareness. Its social networking-based Web site offers a carbon footprint calculator, conservation tips and project proposals for conservation efforts. The company also offers credit and debit cards with rewards to help build renewable energy products, as well as Web-based campaigns such as the 350 Challenge and video contests.

To Prairie, there is something unique about environmental services not only in the town of Middlebury, but in Vermont as a whole.

"Green is Vermont. It fits with the Vermont brand," she noted. "[Brighter Planet] just happens to be in Middlebury because of

how it was born."

When reflecting on her favorite aspect of working at Brighter Planet, Prairie notes that she loves the customers she works with. "We have over 100,000 customers." These customers are serviced through the physical aspects of the company, like its credit and debit cards, as well as through environmental service campaigns and projects.

"We're always interested in more talent, more people working toward improving the environment," Prairie said about the organization's upcoming campaigns and plans. "I feel blessed that Brighter Planet got its start at Middlebury College, in the heart of Vermont with its green history and leadership."

She added that the company has "a growing team of talented Middlebury grads at its core" and is "nurtured by nationally known environmentalists such as Middlebury College Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben."

The company's future is indeed looking bright, considering the large community following it has garnered and its impressive efforts thus far in environmentalism.



Saila Huusko, Photo Editor

Patti Prairie, Brighter Planet's CEO, maps out the company's environmental endeavors, explaining how it has taken advantage of the benefits of Vermont.

How green is Middlebury?

Three expert opinions

Putting together the second green issue of *The Campus* raised the question, "Just how green is the town of Middlebury?" The College is touted for its environmental awareness and Vermont is nationally known as one of the greenest states, but how does Middlebury fit into the picture? We sought experts on the subject and found three who know a lot about the area and a lot about being green: Patti Prairie, CEO of the local environmental firm Brighter Planet; Jonathan Corcorran, president of the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN); and Fred Dunnington, town planner.

— Lea Calderon-Guthe, Local News Editor

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

By Deirdre Sackett
STAFF WRITER

A majority of Vermont's towns share the same ecologically aware mindset as Middlebury's. Yet what makes a town like Middlebury so environmentally conscious? The key to this town's ecological awareness lies in its close-knit community, according to Brighter Planet CEO Patti Prairie.

The Middlebury-based environmental firm recently partnered with the 350 Challenge campaign, a popular and influential environmental campaign that originated at the College. Brighter Planet's goal as part of the 350 Challenge was to receive 350 new bloggers. The company was initially insecure about the number of bloggers it would receive, but as time went on and the word spread, Brighter Planet found it had little to fear.

"We're now over 3,500 [bloggers] in a year in a half," said Prairie.

That's 10 times the number the company expected.

Prairie considers it the power of the Middlebury community at work. She explained that bloggers who joined the campaign received a virtual badge that was displayed on their blogs and Web pages. Friends and family members noticed the attractive badges and, by word of mouth, discovered and joined Brighter Planet's campaign.

"People help each other," Prairie noted about Middlebury's community. With such a strong following, it is evident that Middlebury as a town is concerned not only with the town's environmentalism but also with global environmental awareness.

Prairie also noted that the College has influenced the town's environmentalism in a positive way, especially with the newly built biomass facility that reduces the College's carbon footprint by 40 percent.

"My sense is that [the town of Middlebury] is on the leading edge of environmentalism," she said.

She still suggests that residents visit her company's website, <http://www.brighterplanet.com>, so that they can calculate their carbon footprint and ways to reduce it.

Overall, Prairie credits the power of community and the College with making Middlebury such an environmentally conscious town.

LOCAL FOOD

By Lea Calderon-Guthe
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Eating local foods is a simple way to go green and support the local community, especially in agriculturally rich Addison County, the area for which Middlebury is the shire town. Jonathan Corcorran cited the county's long history of farming as an advantage for the local food movement in the area over other parts of the state with less developed farming communities, but he also said that Addison County still has a ways to go.

"I've heard that three to five percent of the foods purchased in Vermont are locally grown and produced, so there's huge room for improvement, huge, and I think that's really the bottom line," said Corcorran. "I would say that's probably reflected here in Addison County — the number might be a little higher, maybe it's seven percent, really nobody knows — but there's definitely a committed core group of localvores here."

With eight Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs that allow people to pay a discounted price for a share of a farm's crops each season, four farmers' markets and over half the county's restaurants belonging to the Vermont Fresh Network, meaning they serve a certain amount of local food, Addison County residents have a lot of options in the area for eating locally. These options provide to the residents, but they also exist because community members asked for them, which might explain why Corcorran calls the area "a very interesting new model anchored by local demand."

Corcorran showed pride in a community that "gets it," that seems to understand the basic principles of eating local to keep money in the local economy and farms "working, productive and hopefully prosperous." But he stressed some more abstract concepts that he wishes the wider community were more aware of.

"Food touches everybody," said Corcorran. "It's more than just new opportunities — it's about changing our culture. We're having to ask the simple question that people have always asked: 'Where is our food going to come from?' It's about restoring dignity and respect to farming, and also beginning to treat the land on which we live with greater respect. We can't farm the way we're farming now and expect to have something in three generations. We're going to have to reimagine what agriculture is."

Until everyone gets the bigger picture, however, Corcorran is content to push for smaller gains.

"I'm not a 100 percent localvore, but I think it's that we're at three percent," he said. "Shoot, why can't we get to 20 percent? Why can't we get to 25 percent? I don't think we need to be purists about this, we just need to be sensible, and I think that's the direction we're moving in."

TOWN INITIATIVES

By Lea Calderon-Guthe
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

"Is Middlebury green? We're trying to be," said town planner Fred Dunnington.

Not many towns can boast their own Climate Action Plan, but the Middlebury Area Global Warming Action Coalition (MAGWAC) has been working to implement the town's plan since 2006 with the goal of reducing town greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10 percent below 2002 levels by 2012. MAGWAC, headed up by town energy coordinator Laura Asermily, has been responsible for two campaigns, the Way to Go campaign, which promotes carbon-conscious transportation, and the Energy First campaign, which promotes energy saving and alternative energy use. From the two campaigns have sprung such initiatives as the Green Expo, in its third year in March 2010; a Local Solutions Energy Resource Directory; the Earth Day Fair; and expanded shuttle bus services from Addison County Transit Resource (ACTR). Dunnington traced the town's green habits all the way back to the 1980s.

"There was a proposal for a hydro[electricity] project in response to the earlier oil crisis a couple decades ago," said Dunnington. "At that time, the town said, 'We should be energy efficient.' [Current green initiatives] are just a new wave of this — the town has always been fairly advanced and attuned to [energy efficiency], which is only natural in a community that has a connection with an academic institution like the College that's attuned to what's going on in the world. We're blessed by that."

But where the College has a large endowment and a deep-pocketed Board of Trustees, the town is dependent on the slimmer wallets of its voters, which can limit how much the town will spend on going green.

"The problem is," said Dunnington. "The town is stretching as hard as it can in this time of economic stress to keep a level tax rate and fund a major town improvement, the bridge, so the voters are not able to easily take on other new investment. The College is in a position to be even more advanced in its knowledge and research and its financial resources. We benefit from that and work with the College and support everything they do, and we think about how might their projects work for an organization of our scale."

An example of the town following in the College's footsteps is the current plan for a district biomass project that would heat Porter Hospital and municipal buildings. The town is also looking at a new pumping system that could use the heat from the 50-degree water currently expelled by the wastewater treatment facility to heat a slab in an equipment storage building.

"This is out-of-the-box stuff," said Dunnington. "It's not done that often, but we're thinking about creative ways to use the infrastructure that we have. I think people in Middlebury are very receptive to alternative energy initiatives, especially if they're demonstrated to be cost-effective."

local lowdown

Energy Solutions Co-op coffee hour

Nov. 20, 9 – 11 a.m.

Join Middlebury town Energy Coordinator Laura Asermily and drop by Carol's Hungry Mind on Friday to ask about the Middlebury Co-op's renewable energy efforts and offers. Feel free to share your ideas for the Co-op and any feedback on our products and benefits. Sample bags of local wood pellets will be available for \$5 each while supplies last.

Ten Thousand Villages craft fair

Nov. 20, 2 – 8 p.m. & Nov. 21, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Jumpstart your holiday shopping at the Memorial Baptist Church on 97 South Pleasant St. Shop Friday and Saturday for home décor, art pieces and accessories — including hand-painted ceramics, intricately woven basketry, handcrafted jewelry, textiles and more — created by fairly paid artisans around the world.

Contra dance

Nov. 20, 7 – 10 p.m.

Get your dancing shoes on to meet locals and take part in a Vermont tradition that is fun for all ages. Musicians Peter Macfarlane, Rick Klein and John Dickason form the band with caller Rachel Nevitt Friday night at the Middlebury municipal gym. The event is hosted by the ACT Teen Center and ACT-registered teens get in for \$4, individuals for \$8, couples for \$12 and families for \$16. More information at <http://www.addisonteens.com>.

Board game marathon

Nov. 21, 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

The Ilsley Public Library presents the first ever "Gathering of the Gamers," an all-day event that includes 50 or more board games. Play a few games with friends or attend one of the game demonstrations: 11 a.m. for Go or 1:30 p.m. for Carcassonne. There will be game and prize raffles throughout the day, so if you find a game you like, you just might get to take it home with you. For more information or to teach a game, call Chris at (802) 388-4095.

Imogen Heap

Nov. 28, doors at 7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m.

Don't miss the recently announced performance at the Higher Ground Ballroom in Burlington of this Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter known for her work as part of Frou Frou and for her 2005 solo record, "Speak for Yourself," which she wrote, produced and mixed. She has produced two other solo albums, including 2009's "Ellipse," which was an immediate North American chart success. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Buy them online at <http://www.highergroundmusic.com>.

ACTR public hearing

Nov. 30, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Addison County Transit Resources, the public transportation provider in the Addison County region, has been awarded grant funds from the Vermont Agency of Transportation to expand shuttle bus services and is proposing three major service changes. They will be taking comments at four public hearings, the third of which will be at the Ilsley Public Library Meeting Room on Monday, Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m.

The Middlebury Campus

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Editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the editorial board.

Green Issue 2.0

If last year's Green Issue was meant to be a groundbreaking endeavor, we at *The Campus* are even more excited about this year's incarnation. While last year's issue appeared as a novelty, albeit an important and resourceful one, this second-annual issue represents something more. In some ways, it is a partly selfish pursuit to establish our own green tradition — however, it is simultaneously a confirmation that we are serious about continuing to highlight the numerous green topics that exist daily on our idyllic campus. Like last year, each section of the paper, from News to Sports, Opinions to Arts, had more than enough content to fill an entire edition — but unlike last year, we have decided not to devote an entire issue to environmental sustainability.

The reason for this is that to say Middlebury is defined by its environmentalism is to compartmentalize a student body that is diverse enough to evade any such blanket statement. Like saying we are an "outdoorsy" school, or an "athletic" school, or a "liberal" school, saying we are an "environmentally conscious" school shoves aside a significant part of our population that does not share the fervor that many members of our community show toward environmental issues. Undoubtedly these students are as much a part of Middlebury as Sunday Night Group, and their contributions are no less significant towards our institutional awareness and reputation. Last year, by neglecting important campus events such as play openings and NESCAC championships, we fell short of the mandate of our constitution to "provide unbiased information on campus news and events."

This year, we are continuing to cover our normal range of topics, while nonetheless highlighting the environmental consciousness that is an important part of Middlebury's identity and history. In doing so, our goal is to cover more important green topics with more in-depth coverage than we did last year, all while continuing to provide the campus community with up-to-date news and information. Another place where this year is different than last is that we have not significantly "greened" our production process, and while we recognize the inherent paradox of printing a Green Issue on dead trees, we are cognizant of how simply covering these topics has helped open our eyes to the subtleties of environmentalism. Now we turn the lights off when we leave, and the computers off when we are finished — small changes, but important steps in our institutional quest to help promote both environmental and economic sustainability. Our hope is that our Green Issue promotes the same awareness amongst our readers that it has within our own ranks.

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How is it with feet so small,
we leave such large footprints?

Leslie Crapster-Pregont

OP-ED: Bill McKibben

The global, the local and the College garden

I'm packing for the trip to Copenhagen, site next month of arguably the most important international negotiations in the planet's history. There will be big rallies, speeches to give, delegates from every corner of the world, grand conference halls, lots of press. But I'll be thinking, often, of home. Not just because I miss it, but because for me it's the source of many of the ideas we deeply need right now.

The tension between the global and the local is the most interesting and fruitful fact in our ongoing environmental debate, and few places symbolize it better, or more hopefully, than our Middlebury campus.

We face the first truly global crisis — they don't call it global warming for nothing — and that clearly demands planet-scale action. So it's useful work to try and build that worldwide coalition. CNN called our international day of action for 350.org "the most widespread day of political action in the planet's history" — we stood in halls of our temporary offices in New York as pictures poured in from 5,200 actions in 181 countries and almost giggled to think we'd pulled it off with a crew of seven core staff, all 2006 graduates of this college. They've turned themselves into some of the finest organizers now at work anywhere — each one took a continent and managed to reach places and people who had never been active on this issue before. They found some of their best allies in students and faculty at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (350.org is a poster child for why this merger makes so much sense). It all came together quite beautifully — if you look at the pictures on 350.org, you'll see women in burkas with 350 signs, slum dwellers from Mombasa, soldiers in Afghanistan. The idea that environmentalism is for rich white people is simply not true.

On the other hand, those organizers got their start in the privileged hallways of this college — in the classroom and in the library and in the college garden. They cut their teeth helping build support for the biomass plant, and the plantation of fast-growing willows that is the best hope of making it truly sustainable. All of these young people, and I as well, are as deeply interested in the local as in the global.

Which makes sense. Because on the one hand, any global solution is only as useful as the sum of the local actions it motivates. Leaders in Copenhagen won't actually erect any windmills — even their governments, though they have a huge role to play, can't actually make change happen on the scale and at the pace we need. By the same token, inspired action in one town or on one campus — or even hundreds of campuses — won't make a real dent in the carbon concentration of the atmosphere. For that we need worldwide action — we're past solving this crisis one lightbulb at a time.

How to reconcile these different ends of the spectrum? By mobilizing those forces that work everywhere at once. Economics, for instance: the deep goal of the Copenhagen meeting will be finally to put a stiff enough cap on carbon that the cost of fossil fuel will rise enough to begin to change behavior — that every institution, and not just green-oriented campuses, will start looking for alternatives to coal and gas and oil.

Or religion. One of the best parts of 350.org was the involvement of thousands of local churches and mosques and synagogues — across America, for instance, congregations rung the bells in their steeples 350 times. That filters up — as popes and patriarchs begin to enunciate the message that social justice demands climate sanity, behavior will start to shift. The link may not be as easy to model as a price rise, but it's real.

One of the great forces we need to muster is youth itself, the surging, idealistic, hopeful power that's been applied so often to so many local and national tasks. As we worked around the world on 350.org, we couldn't help but notice that our best organizers were often very young — 20-year-olds in Ethiopia organizing giant rallies in the streets of Addis Ababa, college-age networks across Australia, New Zealand, India, China. Linking

them together is ever more possible thanks to the new technology (we have 23,000 photos of actions in our Flickr account at 350.org).

And their power comes only in part from their youth. College campuses are the perfect place for ideas like these to incubate, because people have time, and they have each other — there's a group of people gathered together not because they work for the same employer but because they're engaged in the same search for understanding. Watching people reach for that understanding, try to put it in into practice, is the great privilege of the professor — I've enjoyed few things so much in my years in Vermont as watching the Sunday Night Group turn into one of the nation's premier environmental outfits, developing precisely the kind of people we desperately need.

So it was fun standing in Times Square on 350 Day, showing photos from across the planet on the Jumbotron advertising screens. But when the pictures from Middlebury's 350 potluck came across the computer, I was suddenly deeply homesick. We all need to be citizens of the world, but it's impossible unless you really live someplace. Thank heaven for Addison County.

Bill McKibben is a writer, environmental activist and the co-founder of 350.org. A scholar-in-residence at Middlebury College, McKibben is the author of "The End of Nature," a book on climate change geared toward general audiences.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editors, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

OP-ED: David Rothkopf

A deeply embarrassing public apology

It is a risky business to apologize to your daughter via a newspaper column. First, of all, she is likely to find it embarrassing. To be honest, since she was about 11, my daughter has found any public acknowledgement of the fact that I was her father to be more or less unbearable. I was even required since about pre-K to turn off the radio when we drove into the carpool lane at school so that no one would be tempted to look into the car and see human evidence that she didn't actually live alone, on her own in a Beanie Baby-filled duplex somewhere. (This may also have had something to do with my taste in music ... although come to think of it, I haven't been allowed to choose the songs we played on the car radio since Joanna could talk.)

Joanna, of course, is her name. She is the one I am apologizing to.

But what I want to apologize for is something slightly more serious. Jo, I'm afraid I blew it. We blew it. I'm afraid we've let you down even more unhappily than when I tripped while carrying you on my shoulders a couple weeks before your fifth birthday. (And you know I've never gotten over that.) We got distracted while trying to make sure that you and your sister had enough dresses to wear to all those bar and bat mitzvahs and, because it wasn't all selflessness, I've got to admit that some of the distractions were due to our own efforts to get ahead in life, you know, working to build up the number of hits our names would generate when entered on Google (which is the only true metric of the impact we make in our lives, right?)

And the cost of letting ourselves get distracted was somewhat more egregious than the cost of my parents not really paying much attention to me after my baby sister was born. I mean, I was emotionally scarred and ended up being a little needy. That's not good. But the cost of our screw-up was destroying the entire planet Earth.

Which is serious, even if you are not a polar bear. (I don't mean to make light. There is nothing funny about a drowning polar bear. Unless you're a seal.)

Now, I know what you're thinking, Jo. You're thinking I'm trying to overstate this for dramatic effect. But here are the facts (which I acknowledge you and most of your fellow students already know): virtually every credible scientist who has studied the problem has concluded that spiking CO2 content in the atmosphere is contributing climatic anomalies that are going to have very serious consequences. We can debate whether global warming is plateauing or even whether it is cyclical. But there is no denying that Arctic ice caps are shrinking vastly more rapidly than any projections made even as recently as a few years ago and similar problems are taking a toll in precious and fragile locations like the glaciers high up in the Himalayas. Three rivers flow from those heights — the Ganges, the Mekong (along which you once cruised) and the Yangtze. Something like three billion people depend on those waters and should their flows be impeded, should their levels fall, it would be a social, economic, humanitarian and security catastrophe. There are credible estimates that temperature rise of three degrees in this century could result in the dislocation of over 700 million people. This makes it a potential historical turning point for humankind and a challenge on a scale exceeding all those that have ever come before.

Now, I know you are saying, "yes, I know. I go to Middlebury. We're greener than Kermit the Frog. We get it." And I know that two-thirds of Americans under 30 agree this is a critical priority. But less than half of Americans over 50 get it (regrettably, I am part of this group, which is pretty much past our "sell by" date). And here in Washington, well, no one gets

much. I follow this stuff for a living and I have to tell you right now it looks pretty bleak that the U.S. government is going to do what it must to seriously address this issue.

I once ran a political campaign's policy operation and when I told the candidate that perhaps the single most important thing he could do was embrace the idea of a gasoline tax or a carbon tax, he literally blanched. Then he changed the subject. Now, he is among those likely to block cap and trade legislation in the current Congress, and he's one of the alleged good guys, a Democrat. Heck, the President himself, who ran on promises of doing something about this, looks like he is going to backtrack from a demand that we set emissions limits or put a price on carbon and what's the result going to be? Stalling progress on the rest of the world doing anything about it, that's what. When the world meets in Copenhagen, we'll end up with a pale face-saving deal that essentially punts these decisions down the road.

Now you hear talk about trying to slow emissions without setting limits or putting a real price on carbon. And frankly, while that is certainly better than doing nothing (China just released a state-sponsored study suggesting they should reduce emissions four to five percent a year through 2050; they are more forward-leaning on some of these issues than

we are) it's not going to do the trick. Without these measures, carbon levels will rise and then water levels will rise and the climate will shift and other than those who like the idea of summer sailing at the North Pole, it's not going to be a happy time.

So, what do you get besides an apology? Well, advice, of course. I'm a parent, I can't help it. My generation

has failed to meet its responsibilities. But your generation gets it. To me, the only way this issue resonates in Washington is if people start figuring it in their political cost-benefit analysis. Someone needs to send the message that millions of voters between 18 and 35 consider action on this issue to be a litmus test. They need to make it hurt to do nothing. They need to make platitudes and pork unacceptable alternatives. They need to say, "fix it or we will change the game right now" and right now, the message we are getting is just not loud enough. It's too soft. The crowds are too small. The political efforts are too much at the margins. No politician in America thinks they will lose their job if they get this wrong. They need to know different, to be proven different.

It is embarrassing for a parent to turn to a child to ask for help, especially if the reason is his own failure and that of his fellow parents. But trust me, you will someday have children (not too soon, please) and when you love them as much as your parents love you, you will not forgive yourself for having failed to rise to this challenge. I know you can do it. I mean you got us to let you have your own car up there in Middlebury, and Lord knows we hated that idea even as we were somehow made to do it. That's power. Multiply that by 50 million or so and that's the power of America aged 18-35.

Gandhi is alleged to have said that "when the people lead, the leaders will follow." While this may be true, and who am I to quibble with Gandhi, over the course of my life, you have proven to me that it is even more clear that when the children lead, the parents will follow. We may pretend at the time like we are doing the leading. But in this case, as in so many others (see the car comment above), we know the truth, right?

David Rothkopf is a writer, blogger, president and CEO of a green energy and climate advisory firm, a former senior official in the Clinton administration and most notably, father of Joanna Rothkopf '12.

heardoncampus

We must have so much freaking fun that no one wants to be left behind.

— Ben Wessel '11.5

OP-ED: Julia Alvarez
Naming the Animals

Let's name the animals no longer with us, except in language: start with the dodo, the Haitian long-tongued bat, the dwarf emu, the laughing owl, the eastern buffalo. And then animals like the nukupuu, the lorikeet, the broad-faced potoroo, whose absences don't sadden me as much as I can't put a picture to their names: two potoroos, say, lounging in their den with baby potoroos clambering over them.

I think of Adam watching the parade of just-created animals, their form still taking shape, so had he touched too hard, the camel might have had some extra humps, the colors might have smudged on the peacock, which wasn't yet a peacock, but a thing, a brightly-colored, gorgeous, feathered thing in need of a name--as was the camel, the marmoset, the deer, the parakeet, waiting to enter language and be claimed.

But now, we, Adam's babies, find ourselves uttering names no one comes up to claim: no iridescent, billed, web-footed thing quacks back when we say *Leguat's gelinote*—in fact, unless we say the name out loud or write it down, the gelinote is gone. And so, our language, which singles us out from dwarf emus, nukupuus, potoroos, becomes an elegy, as with each loss our humanness begins to vanish, too.

from *The Woman I Kept To Myself*

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Julia Alvarez is a writer of poetry, novels, essays and books for young readers. She is a writer-in-residence at Middlebury College and teaches in the English and American Literatures department.

Letter to the Editor: Andrew Ackerman

Dear Middlebury Campus,

As a member of the community of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., the idea that the seas could rise with global warming is very distressing. After seeing the recent photograph of the government of the Maldives signing a petition underwater to promote climate change in Copenhagen, I realized this is a very big issue where I come from, too. Not only is Florida very close to sea level, it is one of the areas most affected by storms in the world, and with a steadily rising sea level, these storms could become more deadly than they already are.

If world leaders can agree to lower the CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases

in the atmosphere and slow down or stop global warming, then this would be a huge step forward. If global warming slowed down or stopped, it would be beneficial for everyone, not just the countries with the highest sea levels. If nothing is done, this world will see millions of homes destroyed and people displaced, uprooted and forced to find a new way of life. These leaders need to agree on a plan and find a solution so that when I want to visit my home in Palm Beach Gardens, I don't have to wear a scuba suit.

Thanks,
Andrew Ackerman '13

OP-ED: Ben Wessel A FUNny feeling about the climate movement

2009 was supposed to be the year of climate action.

Last February, after the inspiring election of Barack Obama and an overwhelmingly Democratic Congress, I could taste success. I knew in my heart of hearts that this would be the year that we'd get lasting climate and clean energy legislation. This would be the year that the world's elected leaders would come to an international climate agreement. This would be the year that we took a global U-turn toward a more sustainable and safe planet.

And I wanted to be a part of it.

So, I marched confidently into the Cook Commons office and declared my intention of taking the fall semester off to be a part of the coming clean energy revolution. No longer would I hear the stories of Midd-kids-past in the halls of Hillcrest or in Le Chateau on Sunday nights. Instead, I would be in the heat of battle on Capitol Hill, smiting fossil fuel lobbyists and profiteering politicians with the moral arguments of the world's youth. This was my time to shine.

What a difference a year makes.

I did take a semester off, and I do like to think that I did my fair share of smiting as a part of my work with the 1Sky Campaign, but it has become clear to me that 2009 is not the be-all, end-all I imagined last winter. Congress did not conform to my schedule.

Instead, we did not meet the challenge that 2009 posed us. Yes, we made massive leaps toward the creating of an equitable and sustainable clean energy economy — investing billions in clean energy jobs and renewables and efficiency through the stimulus bill, halting the construction of new coal-fired power plants nation- and worldwide, agreeing in principle to a target maximum of two degrees Celsius temperature rise above pre-industrial levels at the G8 meeting in Italy. But do we have a price on carbon in the United States? No. Do we have a framework for a global deal that will safeguard the survival of all countries and peoples? No. Is that OK? No. Do we have to make the best of a crappy situation? Sure.

The other night I was having dinner with a friend (in fact, a Middlebury parent) whose advice I value very much. She tried to be as honest and forthcoming as possible with me, as our elders tend to, and she laid out a very realistic scenario of the future to me. She said, "Are we going to get a climate bill out of Congress in the next year or so? Yeah. Are we going to get some sort of deal out of Copenhagen or in the following year? Yup. But are these political efforts going to be aggressive enough to answer the science? No, so we've got a lot of work to do." And she's right. The deals on the table won't be enough to counter the severity of the latest climate science and observations coming from the world's most vulnerable communities. And that's scary.

But I don't think the correct response to this crummy scenario is to panic, to retreat to the hills and live in a bicycle-powered shack eating vegan brownies and

writing shoddy I-told-you-so memoirs. Instead, what my friend said is exactly right — we've got a lot of work to do.

We must continue to build our climate "movement," our clean energy call to arms, our blob of committed citizens. And we can't continue to rely on the tactics of yesterday — the canvassing, the picketing, and the angry letter-to-the editor writing. We can't even rely on the tactics of today — tweeting, blogging, and flash-mobbing. We've got to use the tactics of tomorrow, the tactics that our Middlebury colleagues at 350.org implemented this past month to organize the largest day of political action in the history of the world.

We must have so much freaking fun that no one wants to be left behind.

I've spent a lot of time thinking about this, and I really think that the only way we can meet the climate challenge through political action, business ingenuity or sheer willpower is to have a flipping blast. Think about the transformative challenges of the past few centuries. How did the Fathers of the American Revolution, those staid gentlemen of yore, overthrow the oppressive rule of the British? By dressing up in costume and tampering

with people's stuff on boats! Who managed to put a man on the moon? A bunch of computer dorks in hipster glasses and skinny ties essentially geeking out on goofy programming software all the time until they figured something out (sound familiar, GIS students?). My favorite story that I've heard from the 350 Day of Climate Action was from a man in Vancouver, Canada, who wrote that the action he was a part of there was one of those rare occurrences that compelled him to hug strangers in

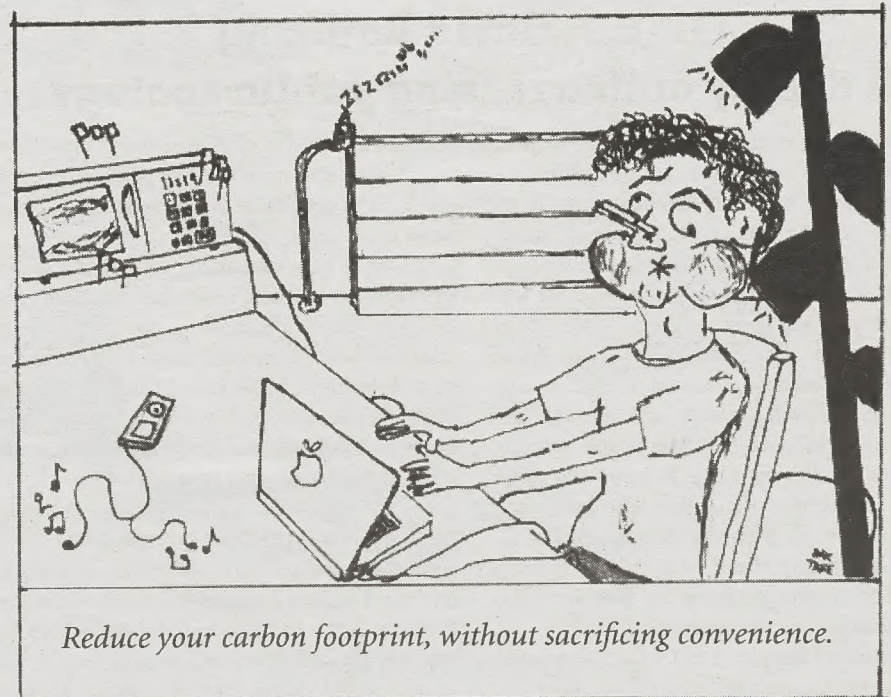
public.

Do you remember the feeling on campus last November the night Barack Obama was elected? Do you remember how damn elated the place felt? If we can harness that feeling of positive optimism, that sense of opportunity and sheer glee — we'll be able to meet this climate challenge head on. We'll be invincible.

I'm heading to Copenhagen in a few weeks for the UN climate negotiations and the part I'm most excited for is any chance for an encounter with Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), a long time foe of clean energy and climate action. I want to show him how much fun the hundreds of young people are having at the negotiations — lobbying their elected officials and performing daily actions directed at the press, but more importantly, just having a freaking blast hanging out with each other. And then I want to invite him to grab a beer with us, and just chill. If we're having enough fun, he'll come along. And he'll be one of us.

Maybe I'm being unrealistic. Maybe fun isn't a strong enough force to transform the global economy — I must say I still haven't fleshed out this hypothesis enough. But I've tried a whole host of other tactics and I've yet to see any of them be too successful. At least this one involves beer.

BEN WESSEL '11.5 IS FROM
WASHINGTON, D.C.



Josh Aichenbaum and Ryan Scura

OP-ED: Katie Earle Political Hazards of a Green agenda

Whose parents do not remember the quadrupling of the price of gas, the stock market crash, the government's request to ban Christmas lights and the mandated national maximum speed limit of 55 mph during the 1973 oil crisis? The OPEC countries' oil embargo countered the prevailing perception of the United States as the invincible superpower. Now, Russia flexes its muscles by threatening Western-leaning Eastern European countries with oil price hikes and restricted exports. The oil weapon certainly exists and the United States' ever-increasing demand for energy leaves the nation particularly vulnerable.

As a Republican, I worry that the green movement prevents environmentalists and liberal politicians from seriously recognizing the dangers of continued dependence on Middle Eastern oil because of an overpowering and misguided desire to perpetuate green initiatives rather than stress the United States' national security. National security must come first.

Canada, which controls the second largest reserve behind only Saudi Arabia, currently supplies 20 percent of oil imports to the United States and this demand is projected to increase. Evolving energy technology leads many to predict that the approximated deposit of 1.7 trillion barrels of oil in the Alberta oil sands has been underestimated. Furthermore, the U.S. Energy Information Agency calculated that American oil demand would soon necessitate imports from Canada, especially from its oil sands, to almost triple in the coming two decades. However, American environmentalists have targeted the oil sands and are currently attempting to influence the Obama administration to ban imports from Alberta because its production emits more greenhouse gases than standard oil drilling.

Although the oil sands generate about five to 15 percent greater emissions, they amount to only one-tenth of one percent of the global CO₂ emissions. This minuscule fraction should not overshadow the importance of increasing our oil trade with Canada for the United States' national security, especially because President Obama refuses to develop domestic oil resources by repealing President George W. Bush's mandate that sanctioned drilling off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and resists new drilling in Alaska. Our nation needs a dependable, politically stable, neighboring, democratic ally to trade with in order to lessen our growing dependence on unfriendly Middle Eastern countries.

The current economic interdependence between Canada and the United States prevents any political disputes from possibly impeding the oil flow. Thus, the only way to protect the United States from the increasing potential of hostile petro-states' growing

economic influence is to import more oil from the Alberta oil sands.

Environmentalists worry that the expansion in oil imports from Canada will not only augment the United States' insatiable hunger for energy, but also inhibit the transition to alternative sources of energy. Yet, existing substitutes have their own problems. For instance, some biofuels and the electric car threaten to diminish an already inadequate fresh water supply and proponents of nuclear power first must determine where to dispose of spent fuel and how to guarantee the security of proposed nuclear plants.

Green-thumbed protestors also object to the environmental consequences of the oil drilling in Alberta. Following a publicized incident in which 500 ducks died after landing on Syncrude pond, where the toxic water that separates the oil from the sand was dumped, the oil companies have redoubled their efforts to reclaim the land damaged by harmful strip-mining. However, environmentalists continue to ignore these efforts and oil companies were infuriated when the BBC crew documenting the oil sands refused to climb Gateway hill in order to film a reclaimed site that boasts lush vegetation and a bison herd.

Most importantly, no matter how many times environmentalists chain themselves to the drilling machinery, the drilling will continue. PetroChina has already invested almost \$2 billion in the oil sands, and will happily import any oil that the United States rejects because of exaggerated green morals. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's conservative party and the opposition liberal party both support the continued production of oil in Alberta because of its consequential geopolitical power and the employment of hundreds of thousands. President Obama should take a page from the Prime Minister's book by recognizing that his objections to domestic drilling prevent a possible improvement to the current growing unemployment numbers.

There is nothing wrong with Jimmy Carter's advice to lower the thermostat in the winter and wear a sweater. Energy conservation is important and can help families in today's current economic climate pinch pennies. Once the United States became the most powerful industrial nation, its hunger for oil was inevitable. Until a reliable alternative energy source can be universally implemented at a reasonable cost, we must realize that lessening our dependence on hostile Middle Eastern petro-states must take priority over the green causes that seem to have infiltrated the lawmakers' political agendas in our nation's capital.

KATIE EARLE '12 IS FROM BEDMINSTER, N.J.

Responses

I feel like it's been over-dramatized a little. I've tried to get the vaccine twice now, because I'm an EMT, so I'm more at risk of being exposed to swine [flu]. But the first time, there was a giant line outside the health center at 8:30 in the morning, and the second time I tried calling the designated phone line and I never got through. I just think students have made a really big deal about it.

—Deanna Tamborelli '10

I have not gotten the vaccine and honestly, I'm not that worried about getting it. Maybe if other people start getting it, I'd be more concerned. But it hasn't hit home yet.

—Molly Dwyer '10

I know it's around so I take care of myself. I take Vitamin C tablets every morning; I use hand sanitizer and wash my hands fairly often. But I feel like if people take care of themselves it shouldn't be too much of a problem.

—Santi Zindel Mundet Cruz '13

There was one week when everyone on our hall was in isolation. Yeah, that week, I didn't really come out of my room.

—Tom Lynch '13

The Campus Poll

How concerned are you with getting H1N1 this year?

I've already had it.
8%

I got the vaccine as soon as I could. I can't afford to miss any classes.
14%

There's no reason to fear the swine flu; don't believe the hype.
38%

I've made a habit to use hand sanitizer every few hours, but I'm not missing any parties because of swine flu.
40%

Sample Size: 58

Have an opinion? Share it!



Submissions to campus@middlebury.edu

Waters to Wine: Mike Waters Drinking local

The dismal state of the environment these days has me down in the dumps. In fact, it has depressed me so that I've been forced to drink (I imagine no one saw that coming). With climate change (and governments' inability to do anything about it — world leaders agreed this week to not decide on anything at this year's summit in Copenhagen, instead deciding to wait just a little bit longer in an inspired move), our throw-away culture, and a myriad of other problems far too numerous to mention, it's a wonder that we're all not raging alcoholics, passed out in a gutter somewhere, drowning our worries in the drink. Perhaps we should be.

You see, I'm not drinking solely to block out my sorrows — I'm drinking for a good cause. One of the greatest things to come out of the broadly named "environmental movement" in the past few years has been the idea of slow food. By this, I mean food that is sustainable — local, often organic, or both — that is prepared with care and intention at every step in the process, and that is expected to be consumed with that same care in mind. Here, we savor quality over quantity, specificity over ubiquity, and food with a story over food with a label. Which brings me back to alcohol.

Luckily for us, caught up in this movement for better and better tasting food has been a push for equally stimulating spirits. Microbreweries and local wineries have experienced an enormous flowering over the past decade, and we're now

blessed with a variety of drinks that might have been unheard of only a few years ago. And even more luckily for all of us Middlebury students, we happen to have a local microbrewery just down the road.

The Otter Creek and Wolaver's brewing facility is well known to Middlebury students; its brewery tour seems a rite of passage for the newly-21, and its seasonal selections provide just enough variety to keep students interested. Moreover, as a

Microbreweries and local wineries have experienced an enormous flowering over the past decade, and we're now blessed with a variety of drinks that might have been unheard of only a few years ago.

brewery, it is committed to lessening its environmental impact as much as possible. Wolaver's Certified Organic Ales was one of the first organic breweries in the United States when it began in 1997, and now it produces a number of organic ales for nationwide consumption. Of course, it is important to mention that while Wolaver's brews are organic, the organic hops they use have to be trucked in from thousands of miles away, lessening their environmental credentials. However, Wolaver's

has also begun its Farmers Series of ales, which incorporate ingredients from local farmers, helping contribute to the local economy and building the idea of a story I mentioned earlier.

To me, it is this story that is most important. While microbreweries and artisanal foods are not a cure-all for all of our environmental ills, they are important for what they do — they make us ask questions about our food. It's too easy to just go to the supermarket and pick up some anonymous case of beer; it's much more interesting to know where it comes from, who produces it and how. So when we drink beer from a brewery down the road, that in and of itself isn't solving anything, but it is the beginning of a valuable and essential process. The more we learn about food, the more we want to know. If I know where my beer comes from, I'll want to know how it's produced, or maybe I'll want to know what it does with its waste and if its hops are sustainably grown. Drinking local beer forces us to ask questions, which is always one of the most valuable things one can do.

So please, go out and have a drink from one of Vermont's many local breweries. The state has been blessed by a growing number of local producers, all making some great beers. It's important to know that by drinking alone we won't solve any of our problems, but we can start to help. So as the empty bottles multiply and the problems fade from our consciousness, we can know: that glow we're feeling comes from more than the alcohol.

MIKE WATERS '10 IS FROM BEDFORD, MASS.

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Finca Alta Gracia

Organic Farm partners with the College to promote community development



Coffee beans dry in the sunlight under the protection of a greenhouse handmade by José Cruz, a neighboring farmer in the Dominican Republic.



Local women of Los Marranitos carry coffee beans in reused cans. The cans serve as an official unit of measure on the farm.

By H.Kay Merriman

FEATURES EDITOR

"Ophthalmologist and writer — coffee growers?" Middlebury College Writer-in-Residence Julia Alvarez applied a tone of self-deprecating humor when she spoke about the unexpected endeavor she and her husband, Bill Eichner, undertook in 1997. Traveling to the Dominican Republic on a writing assignment, Alvarez discovered that the community of Los Marranitos and its surrounding farmland were suffering from deforestation, soil erosion, illiteracy and poverty and needed more hands-on assistance than the publicity from Alvarez's story would receive. Unable to ignore the basic needs of the suffering Dominicans, Alvarez and Eichner established Finca Alta Gracia — which roughly translates to, "the farm of High Grace, the protector of the Dominican Republic" — an organic coffee farm that uses traditional sustainable methods and simultaneously seeks to educate and support the surrounding community.

Alvarez and Eichner's memorable visit to the Dominican Republic that led to their purchasing Finca Alta Gracia was initially prompted by The Nature Conservancy's construction of an anthology. "They were asking writers to visit one of their protected places, write a story about it and gift it to them so that they could put it in the anthology and raise funds for different programs," Alvarez recalled. When The Nature Conservancy asked Alvarez to cover the Dominican Republic, she jumped at the opportunity to visit her parents' native land and her childhood home. Her free trip home quickly turned into a lesson in farming practices.

"We were taken to this area where we connected with a lot of the local farmers who were trying to go back to the traditional way of growing coffee, which has always been under shade trees — organic by default, because who could afford pesticides?" Alvarez said, contrasting this traditional farming technique with the popular "plantation method." Under the plantation method, much of the mountainous terrain of the area had been stripped of its shade trees in order to support a different kind of beans that grew in the sunlight.

"The habitat was completely changed," she said. "The songbirds were gone." These negative consequences from coffee harvesting deeply affected Alvarez.

"These farmers, not even aware because they didn't have the means — they didn't know how to read or write — of some global movement in that direction [of organic farming], they just wanted to go back to the way they were doing things," Alvarez said of the movement to return to the shade-tree method of growing beans. "So they asked Bill and me if we would like to help them."

Alvarez initially responded skeptically, saying that her story would raise awareness about the perilous effects of the coffee industry on local ecosystems and, as a result, those with the means to help them could become involved. However, the farmers and Alvarez's husband were not satisfied with that response; Eichner bought six acres of abandoned and deforested farmland and began planting trees. This initial reforestation

was recognized by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science because, as a result of Alvarez's and Eichner's planting, Bicknell's Thrush, an endangered bird that migrates from Vermont to the Dominican Republic, had finally returned to the Dominican Republic. This symbolic return of animals to their natural habitat is highlighted on the Café Alta Gracia Web site with bird woodcuts by local artist Belkis Ramirez.

The small reforestation project quickly developed into much more. Eichner purchased 60 more acres and then 60 more. Finca Alta Gracia currently occupies 260 acres with room to expand. On these acres, Alvarez and Eichner have worked with the local farmers to create a coffee farm that has improved not only the surrounding environment but also the lives of the farmers. Eichner explained that a pound of Dominican coffee that is sold in the United States for 10 dollars can be bought for as little as 33 cents in the farming communities. Alvarez, Eichner and their business partner Paul Ralston, founder of the Vermont Coffee Company, who grinds Alta Gracia's beans and sells them, worked to meet USDA organic standards in order to ensure a fairer price for their coffee beans

We were taking care of the land, nature, but we had to take care of human nature, too.

— Julia Alvarez

and for the beans of neighboring farmers.

"Certification is an important imprint that says that you are following those practices, and that's important to the marketplace," Ralston explained. "[The farm] was certified under a program that allows the manager of the farm, which is a Dominican government organization, to extend that certification to neighboring farms. So there are a number of farmers who have met the quality standard and the organic standard who are now able to export their coffee."

Realizing that sustainability encompassed much more than reforestation and organic growing practices, Alvarez, Eichner and Ralston sought to further improve the community by establishing a literacy program on the farm. Alvarez recalled meeting the town's "letter-writer," one of the few literate men in the community who was in charge of transcribing communication for community members. "And that's when we realized that we were taking care of the land, nature, but we had to take care of human nature, too," Alvarez said. "And without the access to reading and writing, the cycle of poverty just keeps getting repeated. So that's where the whole school idea came in later in the process."

Seeking to promote development and sustainability simultaneously, in 2000, Alvarez conducted a Winter Term course titled "Writing in the Wiles" in which 12 Middlebury students lived with her on Finca Alta Gracia for the month, devoting half of each day to writing workshops and the other half to community projects, including teaching, bean-picking,

cooking and gardening.

Unable to repeat the class due to changes in the structure of Winter Term, Alvarez established a different ongoing connection between the College and the farm. Every year, two Middlebury graduates are hired for one-year fellowships as either volunteer teachers or "farm and community development volunteers," during which time they live in the community and work to improve its situation.

When Julie Baroody '03.5 arrived at Middlebury in February of 2000, one of the first things she did was attend a presentation conducted by the "Writing in the Wiles" class. Four years later, this international studies major and former inhabitant of Weybridge house was living and teaching on Finca Alta Gracia. Baroody said she worked closely with Alvarez to determine the goals of the library on the farm. "The experience gave me some insight into non-profit management," she said.

Naomi Harper '08, who lived and worked on the farm last year, shared a similar learning experience in management and sustainability. "Working there made me realize that in order for any project to be sustainable, the driving force behind it has to come from the bottom up," Harper said. "By that I mean there must be a high level of engagement on a local grassroots level. The Alta Gracia dream is one in which community development, education and empowerment go hand-in-hand with environmental sustainability."

In addition to working on the farm and conducting literacy classes, the fellows undertake community "micro-enterprise" projects. Eli Berman '07, a current volunteer at the farm, is working to increase the production of compost that will be re-used as natural fertilizer. Berman maintained that such projects require a great deal of help and input from locals.

"One of my good friends on the farm is a nine-year-old boy, Johanni, who helps me with the composting project," Berman said. "Although he can barely read, he is an expert on all of the plants and animals in the area. He leads me around the farm and community quizzing me on the differences between plants. Although I have had trouble learning the difference between plants, I like to think that he sees the same potential in me that I see in him."

Dylan Wadja-Levie '08, who worked last year as the farm's first farm and community development volunteer, developed what became known as "the chicken project," through which the Alta Gracia Foundation hired two Dominicans to build a chicken coop on the farm and stock it with chickens. The project's purpose was twofold. It served not only to employ community members, but also to provide fresh eggs and meat for the surrounding town.

"My experience taught me that sustainability is not easy," Wadja-Levie said, comparing the buzz word of "sustainability" to the realization of such projects. "For something to be sustainable it must be sustainable on many different levels," she continued. "Something that might seem sustainable, or that is labeled as sustainable, might not always be sustainable. We need to constantly evaluate and adjust."

SEE FARM,

Green jobs

Alumni share their experiences in the environmental field, pages 14-15.



Wild thing

Our sex columnist shares her outdoor adventure, page 16.



Gleaning season

Students volunteer on local farms, page 17.

Going green: alumni in the field sh

It is no surprise that many Middlebury graduates go on to pursue careers relating to the environment, sustainability or climate change (or all three). Scholars-in-residence like Bill McKibben and organizations like Sunday Night Group and Weybridge House encourage activism and environmental interest, and provide students with impressive credentials to bolster their résumés. Middlebury alumni have played pivotal roles jumpstarting environmental NGOs and movements like 350.org that are global in scale and are shaping international environmental policy today. While there are no doubt hundreds of alums currently involved in environmental work of one kind or another, the following profiles provide a brief sample of just a few. (Seniors, take note.)

— Roz Vara, Features Editor

Bennett Konesni '04.5

After helping to start the Middlebury College Organic Garden (MCOG) while studying at Middlebury, Konesni's passion for gardening has translated to his newest project — the founding of Sylvester Manor, a 243-acre educational farm located on an old plantation on Shelter Island, N.Y. "Our mission is to preserve and interpret the property," Konesni said. "And to encourage a culture of food that is delicious, joyful and fair." His uncle inherited the property and when Konesni suggested creating something similar to Shelburne Farms, there was no stopping them.

"I really enjoy designing things, then trying them out to see how they work," Konesni said. "I guess I'm a little bit of an inventor in that way, whether it's systems in the fields, a barn layout or an efficient office space."

Konesni graduated with a triple joint major in music, anthropology and environmental studies with a focus in human ecology. After founding the farm, he now works as its executive director and is in charge of daily administrative duties, although he tries to spend as much time as possible in the fields.

He cites his experience starting and managing MCOG as the one that ultimately encouraged him to continue to pursue farming and local foods.

"The experience of starting the garden, from navigating the college bureaucracy to building a shed to harvesting and selling our first produce, has prepared me extremely well for my life as an entrepreneur," he said.

More than anything, Konesni said that his professors and classmates pushed him to pursue his interests — to grow, question and improve constantly.

"Professionals like Jay Leshinsky reinforced our budding knowledge and professors like Bill McKibben, John Elder, Anne Knowles and Jon Isham urged us on and fed us ideas to consider," Konesni said. "Finally, though, it's my Middlebury classmates. The encouragement and ideas that they have given me has been the best Middlebury gift of all."

Konesni encourages all of us to visit the organic garden. "Get your hands in the soil and all of your other projects, classes, and relationships will improve," he said. "It's a powerful place — go explore it."



Elizabeth A. Baer '04

A former environmental studies & policy major, Baer is putting her degree to good use at Conservation International, an environmental non-profit based in Washington, D.C. Baer works in the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business on a team called Conservation Tools for Business.

"My team develops tools and methodologies for companies to help companies shrink, green and offset ecological impacts in their supply chains — the chain of growers, producers, transporters, exporters, processors and others who are involved in making products and delivering services for a company," Baer said.

"We do this by helping companies develop targets for how they would like their suppliers' performance to change, methods for building capacity in the supply chain, incentives to encourage performance improvement, monitoring methods to track change, and approaches to report on and communicate about changes with the public so that consumers can make more informed buying decisions," she explained.

Baer enjoys the ways in which her work can have far-reaching implications, as even small changes made by major international companies like Starbucks, Wal-Mart or McDonald's can have enormous effects.

While she has always considered herself to be environmentally conscious, she credits Middlebury with putting her consciousness into a global context and grounding it in science.

"It's an extraordinarily exciting time to be in the environmental field," Baer said. "We're facing critical global challenges, certainly, and the science only tells us that things are getting worse. But at the same time, we're seeing more and more companies, individuals and nations engaged in environmental issues than ever before."

"The world is beginning to understand that environment is not an 'either-or' proposition, but that if we can shift our way of thinking and operating, 'win-win' solutions exist for us to develop sustainably while protecting the natural resources we rely on to thrive," she continued. "The question now is whether we have the will to make the right choices and to implement the necessary changes quickly enough."

Jason Kowalski '07

After working to organize Step It Up 2007 with other Middlebury graduates and Scholar-in-Residence in Environmental Studies Bill McKibben, Kowalski now works as a policy coordinator at 1Sky, a start-up grassroots campaign urging congress to pass strong climate legislation as soon as possible.

"My role is to make sure legislators on Capitol Hill hear the demand for action coming from their constituents," said the former English major. "And also to make sure advocates around the country have the tools they need to apply pressure to the legislative process. Overall, it's a mix of lobbying, policy analysis and working with our grassroots network."

Kowalski describes his experiences at Middlebury as key to his current career trajectory. "Working with great professors like Jon Isham really got me thinking about what I was learning in the classroom and how I could apply it to the real world."

After taking science and economics courses, Kowalski worked with friends and professors to calculate the College's carbon footprint and figure out how much it would cost to switch from dirty oil to sustainably harvested biomass.

"A combination of student support, solid relationships with the administration and economic analysis led to a triumphant 'yes' vote in 2007 from the Board of Trustees to move forward with the aggressive carbon reduction agenda being implemented on campus right now," Jason said.

In many ways, Kowalski argues, Middlebury's carbon neutrality initiative closely mirrors the battle underway in Washington right now — "only," as Kowalski says, "Capitol Hill is much more hostile than Old Chapel."



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Bonnie Frye Hemphill '08

After graduating in 2008, Hemphill finds herself working at Climate Solutions in Seattle as a fellow in business partnerships. A small non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming was a perfect fit for Hemphill after four years of involvement with Middlebury's SNG.

"I give many of my classes and professors a good deal of thanks," Hemphill said. "But far and away, I learned the most from Middlebury's student climate activism. The basic skills of organizing — inspiring diverse folks to mobilize around abstract goals, conducting large group debates and cold-call phonebanking the media to show up at events — have all proven invaluable."

At Climate Solutions, Bonnie coordinates the Business Leaders for Climate Solutions program with campaign planning, research, administrative, communications and networking support. "It's a network of more than 550 northwest businesspeople making the case for building the clean economy," Hemphill said. "It was just 125 at this time last year."

Her work allows her to be involved in a number of projects at once, including drafting an op-ed for a utility CEO to publish in a local paper supporting Senate action on clean energy investment; researching green tax incentives; helping a group of businesspeople put together a trip to Washington, D.C., to testify before Congress about successful alternative energy projects; and, of course, reorganizing the database.

"Though I am pretty tired at the end of the day," Hemphill said. "I can honestly say I love it. I took full advantage of Middlebury's remarkable resources and networks to jump from school to my work here."



Julie Baroody '03.5

After graduation, Baroody envisioned herself working in international public health, but the former international studies major now considers herself very lucky to have found the Rainforest Alliance (RA). The RA is an international conservation organization that strives to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices and consumer behavior.

"My current role is as coordinator of the RA's climate activities," Baroody said. "I'm thrilled to be part of the new and rapidly growing forest carbon community, with my colleagues finding ways to ensure credible reductions of greenhouse gas emissions through avoiding deforestation and forest degradation."

While at Middlebury, Baroody was involved in environmental groups on campus, though she did not major in environmental studies.

"I lived in Weybridge House and attended ES colloquia regularly, and discussed environmental issues all the time with my peers," Baroody said. "To me, integrating environmental issues into daily life, instead of focusing on them as something special or separate, is the only way to truly address some of the biggest challenges faced by individuals, communities, businesses and all the governments of the world."



David Barker '06

Barker has spent the past two years working as a project manager for the New York City Parks Department helping to implement a program called Schoolyards to Playgrounds as part of the mayor's 30-year sustainability plan known as PlaNYC.

"The mayor wants all New Yorkers to live within a 10-minute walk of a park and since there's not a lot of vacant, available land in the city, he saw the opening of 265 schoolyards (locked after school hours and on the weekends) as a practical way to accomplish this goal," Barker said.

In his own words, Barker "has worn a lot of different hats for the team," from attending participatory design meetings with schools to coordinating with different agencies during construction to make sure it does not interfere with other projects to responding to requests about the status of each project from public officials, civic groups and City Hall.

"I really wanted to be involved with something tangible after graduation," Barker said. "There's nothing better than seeing a barren asphalt yard be turned into a vibrant community space. The feedback from the schools and communities has been incredibly rewarding. At a recent ribbon cutting, the kids wrote each of us thank-you notes describing their favorite amenities. It's work that rarely feels like work."

While Middlebury did not provide the former *Campus* features editor with the technical know-how to interact with a team of architects, engineers and construction staff, it helped in other ways. "It taught me to look at the big picture, to communicate effectively through writing and public speaking and to juggle multiple tasks at once."

Tyler Lohman '08.5

After graduating with a joint major in geography and German, Lohman now works in New York, N.Y., as the general manager, sustainability director and chief operating officer of Dos Toros, a brand new taqueria in Manhattan.

While he does his fair share of burrito rolling — "I'm pretty solid; the trick is to use your pinkies at the end" — much of his time is spent scheduling, doing payroll, advertising, marketing and other customer relations duties. However, his true passion lies in making the company as "green" as possible.

"Being the Midd alum that I am, I don't do the few Patagucci and Pradagonia items that I own and have started to make the restaurant as sustainable as physically and fiscally possible," Lohman said.

The taqueria currently features salvaged furniture, energy-efficient lightbulbs, low water usage toilets and faucets and greenware. In addition, the ceiling is constructed from tin found on the side of the road, all food waste is composted and even the used deep fryer oil gets turned into biodiesel — and, of course, the restaurant serves only local organic beans and sustainably raised chicken.

"Middlebury has influenced every move and decision I've made," Lohman said. "While at school I knew I was learning things I believed in, but I did the work slightly more for the sake of the grade and what I thought the teachers wanted. But now, in the 'real world,' I've realized that I indeed do have very strong personal beliefs and tremendous drive to initiate my own projects — skills that I definitely picked up at Middlebury."



The L-Word

A few summers ago, a friend and I were getting hot and heavy spur of the moment in the backseat of his vintage Cadillac (no seatbelts and at least as roomy as a dorm mattress!). It was nighttime in heavily forested rural North Carolina, so neither of us could see a thing until he opened his door to perform the usual post-coital clean-up, at which point he leapt out of the car and started screaming, "What did you do to my dick, woman?!"

If you've never seen a man with a quickly shrinking GREEN erection jumping around, make it a life goal. Hilarious. It turned out that I had simply grabbed a green, sparkly and mint-flavored condom from the random health center assortment in my bag, unbeknownst to both of us because of the utter darkness. He got over it (the sparkles were actually kind of cute, we decided), but after our green sex, he did the least green thing possible: he peeled off the condom and flung it out into the woods. At the time I said nothing, but I like to think I have since reformed into a budding ecosexual. When I started my reformation, I looked at the basic materials for my safe sex routine: partner, contraception and setting.

In terms of a green partner, I didn't immediately seek a Prius-driving, hemp-wearing vegan (though vegetable-lovers are supposed to have the sweetest sex juices), but my opinion of a potential lover does drop markedly if I have to explain fluorescent bulbs or why we should shower together (to save water, of course). When my partner has been battery-operated and awkward to take through airport security, I've found a lot of changes to make. For one, many sex toys are made with PVC softened with phthalates. The former is environmentally costly to produce and dispose of, and the latter has a long list of health risks. Phthalates are in fact banned from children's toys but not adult toys because they are usually sold as "novelty items" (not intended for actual use) to escape some unfortunate obscenity laws. Solution: buy 100 percent silicone or natural (wood or glass) toys, and if it needs to buzz, find one that's rechargeable or solar-powered and save some batteries from the landfill. I've found Holistic Wisdom (<http://www.holisticwisdom.com/>) and Earth Erotics (<http://www.eartherotics.com/>) have nice selections of green gadgets.

I've never been big on altering Mother Nature's cycles, so I decided a long time ago that high-dose hormonal birth control wasn't for me, and in terms of STD prevention, you can't beat condoms. It turns out they're pretty environmentally friendly — ironically, as long as you don't try to reduce, reuse or recycle them. Latex condoms are biodegradable, but they do it best in a landfill, so no flushing them down a toilet or burying them on a camping trip. And using organic lube can only help the process — I've learned to avoid lube with petroleum derivatives in it.

As far as setting goes, it turns out I can save on the heating bill if I set the thermostat lower at night and warm up the room with pre-bedtime shenanigans. I can also save energy and do it in the dark, or by the light of local beeswax candles.

I've realized that the sustainability of sex applies to me as well as to the environment. If I take the easiest route to sex and don't make an effort to have sex that's good for me — and I don't just mean safe, I mean good for my mind, body and soul — I'm getting myself into bad habits with potentially lifelong consequences. As with all types of sustainability, however, it can be difficult to be immediately 100 percent sustainable, so I just shoot for as environmentally- (and me-) friendly as possible.

Lea Calderon-Guthe '11.5 is a Local News Editor from Chapel Hill, N.C.

College sustains green initiatives
Despite cuts, economic and environmental agendas align

By Ted Silberman
FEATURES EDITOR

Since the current economic downturn began two years ago, the College administration has constantly searched for ways to cut costs while still maintaining the core elements of the Middlebury experience. As a leader in the "green" community, the College has worked hard to preserve its sustainability initiatives despite the recession.

"In a lot of ways, budget cuts mean getting more efficient," said Director of the Sustainability Integration Office Jack Byrne.

Like all departments, the Sustainability Integration Office has experienced cuts that reduced its staff and budget. Although that may seem like a disadvantage, Byrne believes it has actually had some beneficial effects.

"This idea [of making cuts] fits well with sustainability because it's all about limiting the amount of resources we waste," Byrne said. "The bright side of the situation is that it forces us to use our resources innovatively."

Over the past year, Byrne's office has worked with Efficiency Vermont to implement four projects costing a total of \$159,320 that are expected to have an annual cost saving of \$104,410. These initiatives include the biomass plant, new lighting in the Robert A. Jones '59 House and renovations to McCullough and Proctor. Efficiency Vermont was created by the Vermont legislature in 2000 as an independent, non-profit organization that provides technical assistance and financial incentives to promote energy efficiency in homes and businesses across the state. These

services are funded by an "energy efficiency charge" on all electric bills in Vermont.

The budget cuts actually helped reduce Middlebury's carbon footprint in some cases. The accounting tallies the negative environmental impact of the College's activities, so reductions in travel budgets, for instance, mean a smaller footprint. By cutting services, the concomitant decrease in environmental repercussions has helped the College become more sustainable.

While the short-term cuts may be the most visible, there are also concerns about the economic implications for Middlebury's long-term plans. The Master Plan originally called for five separate dining halls, but as the closing of Atwater highlighted, that proposal was not feasible. Despite those ambitious plans, there was no major construction scheduled for the next 10 years, so the recession will likely have little impact on the College's infrastructure. Byrne highlighted one initiative that may be delayed by the economy.

"It might be harder to hire outside expertise," said Byrne. "We currently don't know the potential for geothermal on campus, so without that knowledge it could take longer to tap this source."

One benefit of the squeeze on resources is the increased use of student labor.

"We're not cutting back on work study," said Byrne. "Students do challenging work, which is a big help to the College. They're a really good value as far as consultants go and it fits well with the educational priority."

Opportunities are still available for stu-

dents to exercise their passions for environmental sustainability. There will be a second round of grants later this year and there may be more money available, as first-round applications declined by a third from last year.

Despite the drop in interest for the program, Dean of Environmental Affairs Nan Jenks-Jay is optimistic about Middlebury's activism.

"While these are challenging times financially for the College, the environmental agenda and commitment to sustainability remain strong and individuals including students, faculty and staff all across campus continue to be dedicated to making small and great advancements," said Jenks-Jay.

Student reactions to the interplay between the economy and environmental sustainability are mixed.

"I haven't noticed any cuts to sustainability initiatives," said Dickie Redmond '10.5. "But, in this economy, I wouldn't be opposed to cuts aimed at keeping, should I say, more important programs afloat."

Ian Durkin '10.5 disagrees. "Middlebury's commitment to environmentalism is very important to me. I would hate to see them make cuts to such a key element of our community," he said.

In spite of the budgetary hardships imposed by the recession, the College still values environmental initiatives as a top priority.

"We may have to recalibrate and adjust," said Jenks-Jay, "but as a community, Middlebury will continue moving forward as a leader in sustainability."

Farm promotes fair trade, literacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Eichner said that the very presence of the volunteers in addition to their hard work, encourages change in the community. "A lot can be accomplished by people coming down and doing their thing and it being seen," he said.

Ria Shroff '09, who, along with Berman, currently lives and works on the farm, detailed in her Oct. 26 blog entry the power of promoting literacy by reading in public. She also encourages parents to set their own example for their children: "I told them that now, since their kids were in school, it was up to them to set a good example about the importance of education, and that the kids would imitate their behavior," she wrote. "They teased me and started complaining in jest about how I was a taskmaster, but I could tell they were all eager. I walked out of my house 30 minutes later and found all the women on their front porch with a book. It reminded me of sitting out on the balcony in my house and reading, reading, reading."

As evidenced by the volunteers' stories, sustainability at Finca Alta Gracia encompasses more than organic and eco-friendly growing practices. Sustainability for the farm incorporates environmental, economic, political and social justice.

"Paul [of the Vermont Coffee Company]

is 100 percent fair trade because, as he said, 'fair trade is a philosophy,' Alvarez said. "If you believe it, then anything else is not fair. It does trickle down to these people having a significantly better chance."

Alvarez, Eichner and Ralston are grateful for the support of the fellows, the yearly Middlebury Alternative Leadership Trip trips to the farm and the funding provided by the College's Alliance for Civic Engagement office. "[The volunteers] are a great gift to the community," Eichner said.

Finca Alta Gracia plans to expand more this year, exporting 300 60-kilo bags of beans to the United States, up from 250 last year. Alvarez, Eichner and Ralston would also like to see additional College involvement and look forward to reading the applications for this year's fellows.

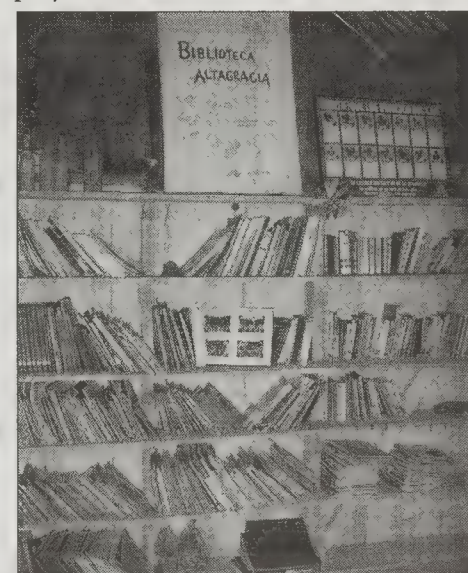
For those who cannot travel to the Dominican Republic to assist directly in the ongoing 13-year sustainability project that began with a story assignment, the volunteers suggest supporting fair trade on the consumer level.

"For coffee drinkers, think about relationship coffees," Wadja-Levie suggested. "Try to find a roaster who knows where the coffee comes from and the farmers who grow it."

Berman added, "I encourage people to learn more about the products they consume

because, although I'm only knowledgeable about coffee, I'm sure this is a trend in many other markets. The final price should only be one of many factors in deciding whether or not to buy a certain product."

Café Alta Gracia can be purchased at a number of local Middlebury establishments or online at <http://www.vermontcoffee.com>.



Courtesy

The library at Finca Alta Gracia is the first public library in the Dominican Republic.

winners



&



losers

Ron's publicity skills

Here's to you, Ron (Burgundy)!
Congrats on cracking Time's top 10.

Ron's e-mail skills

How many mailings does it take to get a link right?

Levi Johnston

Congrats on escaping that giant mess.

Going Rogue

What does that even mean, Missus Palin?

Emoticons

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Real emotion

Save it.

Middlebury alum leads gleaning initiative

By Emma Lennon
STAFF WRITER

Ten minutes is nothing. A 10-minute nap is never satisfying, 10 minutes of running is considered a warm-up, and 10 minutes in bed is, well, not exactly impressive by any means.

But 10 minutes is more than nothing to a farmer. To Sunrise Orchards in Cornwall, for instance, 10 minutes of hail early in the growing season cost the orchard approximately \$1 million in apples this year, about one fourth of the farm's profit.

Perhaps the worst part about this is that the apples taste great. Yet they have slight blemishes or pockmarks that make them unsuitable for wholesale, and are essentially left to fall off of the trees and rot. That's where gleaning comes in.

Gleaning is the practice of gathering leftover produce or fruit after a crop has been harvested. Gleaners collect the food that farmers cannot sell, either because the produce is not the ideal size, is cosmetically flawed or is simply excess.

Middlebury alum and Compton Fellow Corinne Almquist '09 works with Theresa Snow, program director of agricultural resources at the Vermont Food Bank, to organize gleanings and deliver produce to Vermont Food Shelves and other community centers throughout the northwestern Vermont area. And with almost 10 percent of the Vermont population categorized as "food insecure," gleaning is becoming an important resource for the food bank.

But these leftovers are not like cold pizza or take-out boxes of lo mein. They are perfect potatoes, fresh green beans or, as I found out while gleaning at Sunrise Orchards, ripe apples perfectly chilled by the crisp Vermont autumn. For many, this is a refreshing change from the processed food traditionally distributed by food banks.

"I'm really drawn toward gleaning because it serves people who usually don't get the chance to participate in the growing local foods movement, but who absolutely have the right to enjoy fresh, healthy produce," Almquist explained.

Eric Elderbrock '10 agrees. The Sunrise

Orchard glean was his first, but he immediately felt the benefits.

"Who wouldn't enjoy hanging out in the sun, picking apples or carrots, knowing that the healthy food they're picking is going to make the day of someone a little less fortunate?" Elderbrock said.

Almquist began this venture with help from the Compton Mentor Fellowship Program, which provided her with a one-year grant to pursue "something [I'm] totally passionate about," she said. She originally heard about the program from Emily Adler '08, the first Middlebury student to receive the fellowship. At the same time, she began to develop an interest in gleaning through the Middlebury College Organic Garden and Professor John Elder's Fast Food/Slow Food class.

"The more I thought about it, the more I realized it would be a perfect project for the fellowship," Almquist said.

She originally considered trying the project in California, but coming from Middlebury, Vermont resonated with her. Now she has fostered ties with supportive farmers dedicated to sustainable food systems, and with the abundance of smaller diversified farms in the area, the gleaning process has been easy.

"I would imagine that it would be much harder to glean in an area that is dominated by industrial agriculture," she said, "I am so happy I stayed in Vermont."

Her involvement in the fellowship, after all, has revolved around the goal of using sustainable agriculture to ameliorate our country's environmental footprint.

"[Gleaning's] really a simple concept that has been around for thousands of years, yet if implemented on a wide scale it could play a crucial role in reducing our nation's carbon emissions, strengthening local food networks, and sparking the transition away from industrial agriculture," Almquist said.

Volunteers have also been a crucial part of the program's success. Gleaning attracts people of all ages, "from elementary school kids to folks in their 80s," as Almquist said.

The latest gleaning at Sunrise Orchards, for example, attracted a range of person-

alities. Will Van Heuvelen '09.5 and Marcella Houghton '12 unloaded the back of a minivan packed with empty crates, soon to be filled by volunteers like Almquist's mother, Muriel, and Middlebury residents Carol and Reg Spooner. Carol is a 1950 Middlebury College graduate, and Reg is a lifetime resident of Middlebury. The two met Almquist through the interfaith environmental group Spirit in Nature, and their involvement with the College remains active through the Friends of International Students Host Program and through auditing various classes at the College.

"We've been volunteering with HOPE for years and we've known Corinne for a long time. Gleaning was just a gimme," Spooner said.

Almquist recognizes the importance of volunteers in this program, and she is trying to ensure that gleaning in Vermont continues to prosper after her fellowship has ended. She is working to create AmeriCorps positions fo-

cused on gleaning, and HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects) is considering hiring an intern to continue gleaning.

"Now that there's an expectation of fresh produce from the food shelves, it needs to happen!" said Almquist.

With enthusiastic volunteers, the future is looking bright.

"Given how much fun [gleaning] is, it should sell itself," said Elderbrock.

Elderbrock acknowledges, however, that with the commitments and pressure placed on Middlebury students, free time can seem like a luxury. But gleaning is time well spent, "spending a couple of hours on a beautiful Vermont farm with friends," noted Elderbrock.

After all, 10 minutes of hail may have damaged the apples at Sunrise Orchards, but last week, a single hour of gleaning there produced 1,200 pounds of fruit, all of which will be distributed to people who really need it.



Courtesy

Midd students harvest leftover crops to donate to the Vermont Food Bank and food shelves.

campuscharacter Pier LaFarge '10.5

"Climate change is the challenge of our time," Pier LaFarge '10.5 emphasized throughout our conversation. "Students at Middlebury have a great opportunity to become engaged on various levels of action."

At 2 a.m. on a Friday afternoon, one would think a senior Feb would much rather embrace a much needed weekend retreat than acquiesce to a Campus interview, but LaFarge enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to discuss his activist role on campus and the current debate on climate policy.

The Rhode Island native arrived at Middlebury after what he believed was the typical Febmaster of erratic endeavors — everything from backpacking in the Swiss Alps to conservation work in Costa Rica. When posed the banal question of "Why Middlebury?" LaFarge couldn't help but smile.

"Middlebury is such an encompassing and involved place, La Farge said. "People really want to be here. There is a huge sense of community not found in many other places."

LaFarge seized the opportunities that Middlebury offered. During President Barack Obama's campaign, he worked as an intern for ISky, an organization that advocates federal action to stop global warming. On campus, LaFarge is active in the Middlebury Mountain Club, especially with the recent initiative to reinstate the MiddView program in first-year orientation.

"We are waiting for Finance Committee approval, but we are closer to getting MiddView back," said LaFarge, who adamantly explained his rationale for trying to rescue the program.

"MiddView is an integral part of coming to Middlebury," said LaFarge. "It's a three-day, focused experience where nervous first-years, in a healthy social context, can engage with each other and upperclassmen. Most importantly, incoming students have the chance to discuss their fears, which turn out to not be singular to any one person — everyone is talking about the same thing," said LaFarge. "MiddView reflects the best parts of the Middlebury community — connecting to the landscape and the people."

Getting back to discussing his sincere interest in climate change and environmental policy, LaFarge gave a brief history of the evolution of his passion.

"My father was an environmentalist and outdoorsman," he explained. "He worked in both land and water conservation. His legacy has helped inspire me to follow in a similar activist vein. In high school, I began to engage with issues dealing with sustainable energy and climate change. I researched different environmental policies for my senior project."

While in college, the environmental policy major has expanded this interest to a desire to "bring policy focus and awareness on a relatable level back to campus."

LaFarge is particularly motivated to help erase the stigma associated with labels like "environmental" or "climate change."

"We need to unpack climate change into its functional parts, making the debate much more palatable for everyone around the country," explained LaFarge. "Approaching the issue from a deconstructed view is extremely beneficial — breaking it into energy efficiency,

green jobs, pollution regulation, investment in transportation infrastructure and renewable resources, etc."

LaFarge plans to focus his thesis on ways in which climate policy can be filtered through the philosophy of conservative states.

"Agriculture in the United States has a lot to lose from climate change," said LaFarge. "As rain patterns change and droughts become more frequent, growing crops will get harder and more expensive." LaFarge added, "Addressing climate change at the national level has the ability to bring good jobs back to struggling rural communities through investment in the renewable energy industry. Legislation will also open up a bunch of income opportunities for American farmers in areas like biomass and carbon sequestration."

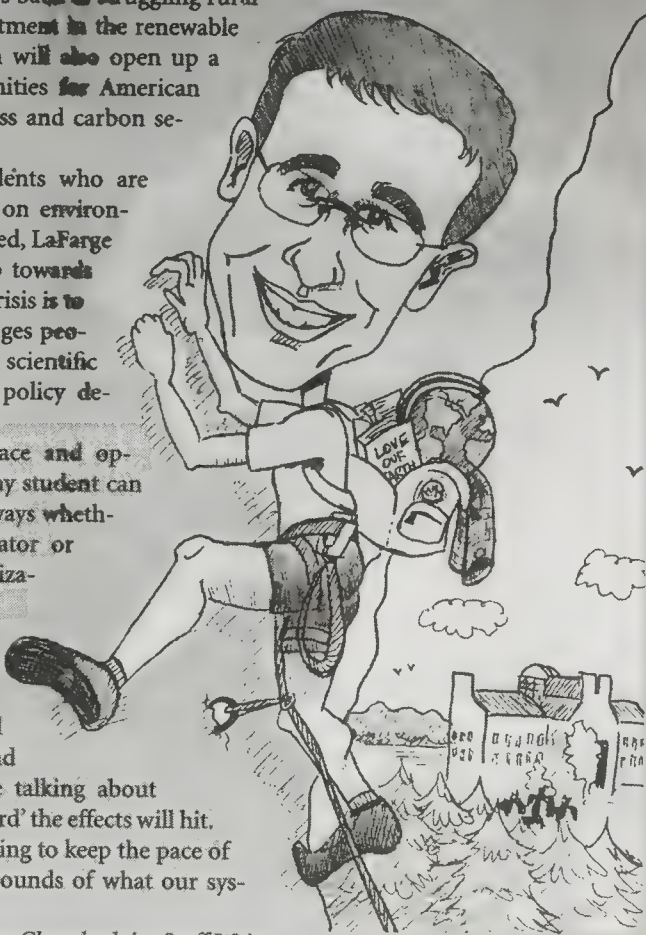
When asked how students who are not necessarily well-versed on environmental policy can get involved, LaFarge explained that the first step towards understanding the climate crisis is to educate oneself. He encourages people to go out and read up on scientific developments and current policy debates.

"There is so much space and opportunity to get involved, any student can make change in numerous ways whether it's contacting their senator or joining climate action organizations."

Wanting to make one point extremely clear, LaFarge reiterated, "The debate has moved beyond debating the science behind climate change. What we're talking about now is 'how fast' and 'how hard' the effects will hit. This challenge is about working to keep the pace of climate change within the bounds of what our systems can handle."

— Hunter Chamberlain, Staff Writer

Hannah Parker



Klare rethinks U.S.-China resource relations

By Corinne Beaugard
STAFF WRITER

"I believe that, more and more in the 21st century, conflict will be driven over resource competition rather than ideology or politics," Professor Michael Klare, professor and director of peace and world security studies, began his lecture on last Thursday, Nov. 12.

Klare spoke about the future of geopolitics and natural resources during his lecture, titled "The New Geopolitics of Energy: Beyond the Crisis." Klare has authored numerous books and is a correspondent for *The Nation*, a contributing editor to *Current History*.

He supported this initial assertion by highlighting that wars have historically occurred over disputed resources. In this century, though, the ratio of supply and demand is rapidly changing and shows no potential for reversal. Klare cites this as a result of the drastic increase of the per capita share of the GDP in developing Asia, from \$1,600 in 1990 to an anticipated \$12,000. The emergence of this new middle class will boost automobile sales and consequently increase the demand on sources of energy. "China is predicted by 2015 to be the number one consumer of energy, passing the U.S., which has tremendous implications for the world economy, the environment and U.S.-Chinese relations, [especially for] the possibility of conflict," stated Klare.

He also discussed how population growth has immense implications for the supply and demand ratio. The global population is expected to reach two billion people by 2050, all of whom will need land, food, water, and building materials. The challenge is finding clean, safe, and efficient ways to provide for

the impending crisis.

Klare proceeded to discuss the status of petroleum and other sources of energy, concluding that clean energy must be developed if the world is to sustain peaceful life. "Petroleum is the single most important resource in international commerce, providing 40 percent of all oil," said Klare. "Natural gas will last longer, but is a limited substance [that] will peak in production before the end of this century. Coal is less abundant than generally perceived and will peak mid-century."

Klare proposed that the U.S. and China could develop clean energy together, an endeavor that would benefit both countries through shared cost and alteration of the dynamic to halt the potential for ultimate conflict. However, this would eliminate clean technologies from the status of commodity and lessen the potential for development resulting from competition.

"Though his suggestion that China and the U.S. work together could help disperse the risk involved with investing in new technologies," said Litsey Corona '11.5, who attended the lecture. "I'm not sure how likely it is that each country will engage in sharing technological findings that could put them ahead in the energy market."

While it is unclear what the future of U.S.-Chinese relations will hold, Klare made a compelling argument for collaboration. "China continues to rely on coal for its primary source of energy," he explained. "Carbon Dioxide emissions will impact global climate change, the global economy and China's purchases of imported energy. Americans will have to pay higher prices for oil and other fuels," said Klare.

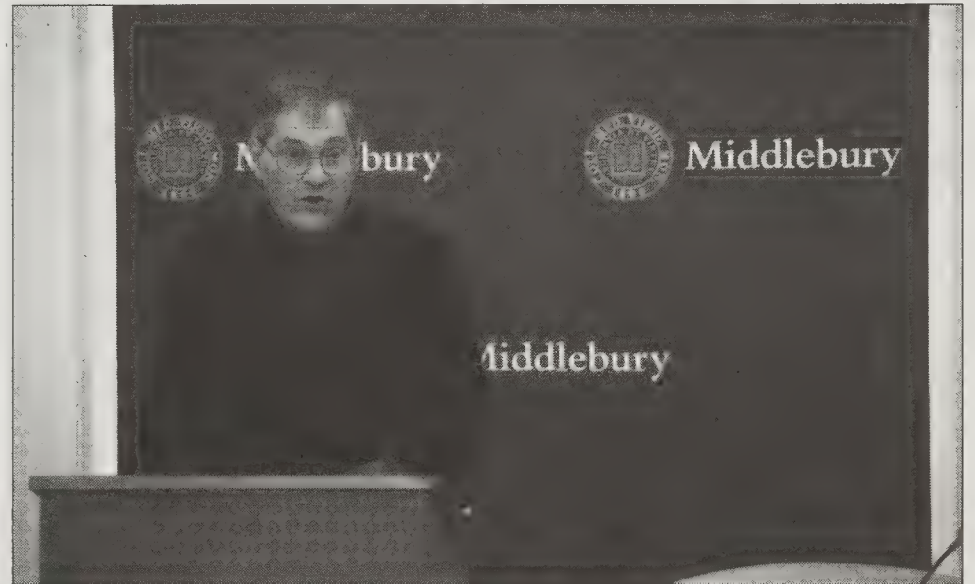
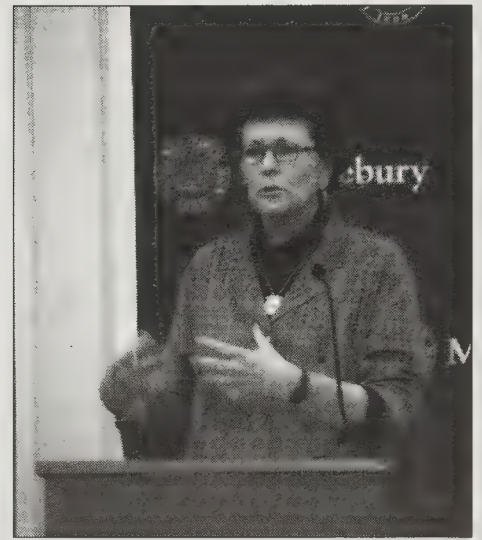
Klare also clarified that his fear of future

conflict is embedded in the future change in relations. "At the present time we are not at a genuine adversarial relationship with China," he continued. "Competition over energy will become more intense if relations between Washington and Beijing deteriorate."

He discussed how the fear of conflict can turn into a self-fulfilling prophecy and how, as a result, measures should be taken to ensure the continuance of peaceful relations.

"I especially liked when he talked about the future relationship between the U.S.A. and China and that the psychology is what really has to change," said Jakob Terwite '13.

This altered psychology, if ever achieved, would have enormous implications for energy production, the environment and international relations.



Roz Vara

Geography professor Tamar Mayer (above) introduces her good friend and bestselling author Michael Klare (below), who spoke about geopolitics and resource-driven conflict.

From the Kitchen of: Sasha Swerdloff

This weekend, I had a revelation: baby bok choy. I had always avoided it because I didn't know how to cook it and I assumed it was bland and watery. But this weekend, tired of the usual root vegetables, I bought some, prepared it simply, and loved it.

Bok choy originated in China some 1500 years ago and was brought to America by Chinese immigrants in the 19th century. Bok choy is a vibrant green leafy plant that grows on a juicy, white, troughed stalk. It has a mild fresh flavor. It is in the cabbage family and grows well in Vermont's cool climate. It goes well with radishes, which have a spicy bite and a crisper texture, but when cooked become sweet and almost fennel like in flavor.

Digger's Mirth grows and sells red radishes at the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op. Digger's Mirth was founded in 1992 and drew its name from a British agrarian model from the 1600s that resembled the practice of gleaning, or harvesting surplus produce. The original diggers didn't reclaim abandoned produce, but would reclaim abandoned land and grow food for themselves and the poor. Today, Digger's Mirth is a small co-operative of four farmers, operating on a shared 15 acres of land near Burlington, Vt., under the umbrella non-profit organization known as The Intervale. The Intervale was founded in 1988 to preserve natural resources and promote organic agriculture as an economic opportunity. It now encompasses a variety of projects, including agricultural development, conservation, composting and youth education. Its goal is a sustainable Vermont food system and they define sustainable as follows: it "integrates farming, food

processing, distribution, and consumption in ways that enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of a particular place." Through The Intervale, Digger's Mirth brings this message of sustainability to our mouths in delightful and surprising ways.

Roasted Baby Bok Choy, Fennel and Radishes

Serves: 2

Total preparation time: 15-20 minutes

Ingredients:

10 red radishes, thinly sliced into rounds
5 bunches baby bok choy, rinsed and separated
½ head fennel, thinly sliced
10 tablespoons olive oil
salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Toss bok choy, fennel and radishes with olive oil, salt and pepper and place in the oven in a baking dish until the bok choy is tender and wilted and the fennel and radishes are soft, sweet and brown (about 10 minutes).

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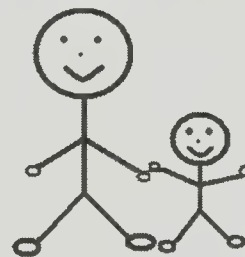
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Land (E)scaapes

Students use conventional mediums in an unconventional way

By Claire Sibley



In September, the students of "Re-Imagining the Landscape: Painting, Drawing, Photography and Glass" were given magic markers and four-by-six foot sheets of paper and sent to find a spot on campus to draw. Over the course of three weeks, they continued to capture their chosen scenes, moving from the sole use of magic marker to a multiplicity of gel pens, sharpies, graffiti markers, spray paint and, finally, digital photography. The images took shape, each reflecting the hand of its author in style, method and choice of materials: while some students chose to incorporate photographs directly into their work, others manipulated them with Photoshop or inked over them.

The students took remarkably different approaches to their work. Michael Mommsen '10 took to the canvas with a frenzy of excitement and energy; his drawing communicates this, its color and layered blocks demanding a sense of movement and immediacy. Felipe Sanchez '10, on the other hand, persisted with a pointedly deliberate precision, utilizing fine line to shape his scene. A few of the canvasses are dominated by a single medium, but many display a natural synthesis of the variety, resulting in unexpected textures and arresting depth.

After the students had found and committed their scenes to the canvasses, Professor of Studio Art Jim Butler announced the second half of the project: the students were tasked with transitioning their images to another four-by-six canvas, this time using oil paint alone. Translating a scene to an image ceased to be the focus of their process; instead, they were challenged to transfer the image itself through differing media.

For much of the class, this was one of the most difficult aspects of the project. Because they had had no idea about the second half of the project upon beginning, many of their methods were difficult to transfer to brush. To achieve the effect of the narrow ink strokes of his first canvas, Sanchez spent weeks devising a tool that would mimic the point of a pen when used with paint. Having created an incredibly "dense" first image of a tree, Anna Johnston '10 found the conversion especially difficult, involving long periods in which she painstakingly reproduced an explosive mass of magenta and yellow foliage. She ultimately found her muse by taking a more physical role in the painting process that closely mimicked the spirit of activity that had characterized the creation of her first image.

In the period of transition, the students gained an understanding that could "only occur through the materials," as had been Butler's intent in designing the structure of the project. The materials of the project, and the project itself, were chosen and formulated "to give students tools to think practically about how to make contemporary art images," Butler explained. A necessary element of the project, then, was its spontaneity: most of the students would not have chosen to formulate their drawings in the way they did had they known they would be painting them, and subsequently, they had to use a completely different mode in the creation of their paintings.

"Making something new in art is by definition unpredictable," Butler stated, going on to explain that through this difficulty, the students learned "how materials inform the making of art." Instead of limiting the scope of their expression according to the medium, each individual was forced to find a way to manipulate the medium to convey their image. Eva Almiñana '10 expressed that despite the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

editors' picks

18 "Novecento"
Wright Theatre Stage
8:00 p.m.

Nerina Cocchi '10 reimagines Alessandro Baricco's monologue as a five actor play about the prodigy jazz pianist Danny Boodman T. D. Lemon Novecento who almost passes his entire life without stepping off the boat where he was born. Tickets are free.

20 "Desdemona:
A Play About a
Handkerchief"
Hepburn Zoo
8:00 p.m.

This senior acting work of Emily Kron '10 and Claire Graves '10 reinterprets Shakespeare's "Othello" with a feminist spin. Written by Paula Vogel in 1979, the drama uses gender and class to give Desdemona and other females a larger story than the bard usually credits them.

20 The Sound
Investment
Jazz Ensemble
MCFA Concert
Hall 8:00 p.m.

Directed by Dick Forman, this concert will condense 75 years of big-band music at Middlebury into one night. From the Swing Era to recent decades, the Jazz Ensemble gives a sampling of their best works upon the occasion of their anniversary.

20 Fall Dance
Concert
MCFA Dance
Theatre
8:00 p.m.

The Dance Department's annual fall show will highlight advanced student choreography under the guidance of Visiting Lecturer of Dance Christal Brown. The show will also include the "Newcomers' Dance" featuring performers new to the department.

**FOR THE
record**

Concert Ed

by Dickie Redmond

Artist | Umphrey's McGee

The Green Apple Festival is America's largest celebration of Earth Day. Since its birth in 2006, the event has grown to 10 major cities across the United States. Each year, bands play in the festival to educate audiences about environmental issues. Specifically, the Green Apple Festival promotes life choices that help to create a greener America — stressing the importance of saving energy, recycling, reducing water use, eating wisely and driving less.

Umphrey's McGee is one of these "environmentally aware" bands, and has played in the festival since it started in 2006. Even the band's manager, Vince Iwinski, became a part of the event when he produced the Green Apple Festival in Chicago two years ago. Umphrey's — as the band name is commonly shortened — was also afforded the privilege to play in front of the White House at the Festival in 2008.

Though the band did not use the stage to enlighten the audience about all things environmental last Thursday, Nov. 12, at Higher Ground, they attracted many fans looking to get in touch with Mother Nature. That is to say, there were lots of hippies congregated in South Burlington dancing in bohemian glory to a band that, at least for a while, seemed to be the heirs to the "Phish throne." Of course, Phish got back together and ruined all chances of such a triumphant ascension.

Back to the issue at hand: Umphrey's McGee rocked Higher Ground last Thursday. The concert was more a celebration than anything else. After all, the band got to count down the moments to Ryan Stasik's birthday, and, at the conclusion of the show, even invited the crowd to a bash at Metronome. Umphrey's was having a great time partying on stage, and the audience followed suit.

On "40's Theme," guitar shred-master Jake Cinniger muttered nonsensical lyrics with corny hand motions, which made the tune more theatrical than anything else. And the crowd responded positively, finishing the lyrics at the appropriate times.

Those in attendance were certainly ready to party along with Umphrey's. On the fast paced "All in Time," the ballroom shook as everyone, in unison, happily jumped and swayed to the voice of guitarist and vocalist Brendan Bayliss. Then, the band jokingly introduced a drum solo by Kris Myers: "Give it up for my favorite drummer in the whole f'cking world!" Once the solo was over, and everyone was back on stage, Bayliss and Cinniger took over to deliver their usual two-guitar onslaught.

These moments — when Jake and Brendan compliment each other on guitar — make Umphrey's McGee a great band. Just as the song seems to be disintegrating into a structural void, the guitarists start dueling — riffing at an ever-faster pace — until some sort of pinnacle is reached. Once there, the guitarists hold their riff for as long as possible, and, as a spectator, you can't help but think that these guitarists are the most rockin' guitarists in the world.

Although I was disappointed that Umphrey's refrained from playing a more recent, "Mantis"-heavy setlist, I was happy that the band was having fun jamming to their classics. And, so long as everybody is having a good time, I'm having a good time too.

Debauchery takes over the 'Road'By Jessie Kissinger
STAFF WRITER

Loose women and men in shabby coats settled into a disheveled Seeler Studio Theater this past weekend, bringing to life director Richard Romagnoli's show, "Road," written by Jim Cartwright.

The stage was dim, first lit by a match, and run through with broken furniture, establishing the dismal mood that endured throughout the play. The play itself was grating — a series of gritty vignettes with snatches of humor to cut the darkness. A drunken guide, Scullery (Mathew Nakitare '10.5), slurred together the scenes with feats of debauchery while leading the audience through the town.

Set in Lancashire, northern England, during a time of high unemployment, "Road" began despondent and never rose out of its gloom. Characters met in the streets and occasionally did ensemble work, but otherwise, their stories only connected because of the location and an underlying experience of despair. Thus, the play as a whole had less of a clear emotional arc, and instead contained many brief but poignant private dramas.

Within these scenes, the actors' performances were truly remarkable. Their attention to detail subtly sharpened scenes that might have dulled because of the relentlessly dark tone. Each character's tumble into despair brought an individual touch to the same problem: the inability to change the way things are.

One of the first scenes to really open up this struggle was the exchange between Clare (Jessica Spar '11) and Joey (Michael Kessler '11), lovers battling between apathy and a desire to live and fight their circumstances. The scene started with Joey lying on a mattress on the floor, refusing to eat. Clare joined him in bed and tried to convince him they had to keep on living. This argument contrasted with their physical intimacy to express the theme that love cannot fully combat the inescapable loneliness of hopelessness.

As the scene progressed, however, Clare became even better versed in dejection than

Joey and, by the end, the two were sprawled out on the mattress, unconscious. Hard dance music filtered in and a few people dragged them away. Other characters began to flock to the stage, newly transformed into a disco, and it was unclear that it was intermission until one of the actresses leaned over and said, "If you want to use the loo, now's the time."

The next act started strong, with a stunning performance on the part of Michaela Lieberman '10.5, taking on the role of Helen, a woman so desperate for love that she attempted to seduce an incapacitated soldier (Kessler). The scene at first was oddly funny, as Helen pretended to fall on the soldier and angle her body so that she would land on top of him.

She squealed with mock surprise and delight and somehow even managed to transport the limp soldier across the room to a standing mattress. However, he still slumped at her feet and Helen, unable to fool herself any longer, leaned against the mattress and shook her head, crying, "I am so sad." Her turn of emotions was an incredible fall from humor to horror, heightened by Lieberman's

excellent execution.

Lieberman emerged again in the final scene as the character Carol out with her friend Louise (Martha Newman '10) and two men, Eddie (Audrey Dube '12) and Brink (Christo Grabowski '12). Back at the men's apartment, they put on the Otis Redding song, "Try A Little Tenderness." All onstage stood paralyzed by the music and though the song played through, their stillness was one of the most arresting moments of the play.

Out of their silence sprung four deeply honest speeches remembering forgotten feelings beaten down by everyday life. Louise, the quietest of the four, finished with the plea that if she could only yell loud enough, she could break the stagnancy of her situation. The other characters chanted her final words, "Somehow somehow I might escape," louder and louder, but nothing changed — Brink sat alone, Eddie and Louise stood swaying together, and Carol crumpled to the floor, crying hysterically.

At this point, Scullery swept through to cap off the play, the night over and dawn approaching, nothing resolved but sadness resolute.



Angela Evancie

Michael Kessler '11 and Michaela Lieberman '10 put on British accents for the Fall Faculty Theater production of "Road," written by Jim Cartwright and set in provincial England.

Audience learns how 'Rome' was builtBy Toren Hardee
STAFF WRITER

Countless works of art are produced every year that revisit and rehash our historical past, both immediate and ancient. What is it about these histories that proves to be so consistently compelling to us? The story of ancient Rome, in particular, demonstrates again and again that it is endlessly fascinating to us, the hundreds of years separating that empire and the modern day notwithstanding. But why? A lecture in the D. E. Axinn '51 Center for Literary and Cultural Studies on Saturday, Nov. 14, co-sponsored by the Classics department and Ross Commons, concerning HBO's "Rome" series, attempted to answer this question. The lecture featured Steve Shill, director of several episodes of the show; Jonathan Stamp, a historical consultant for the series; and Michael Nardone, an actor who portrayed the fictional character Mascius on the program.

Director Shill focused primarily on portraying the behind-the-scenes workings of the filming of "Rome," with an emphasis on the enormous effort and resources poured into giving it a visual historical authenticity, as well as replicating the sense of glory and grandeur that we associate with the classic stories of Rome. As a director, Shill — who has also directed episodes of other acclaimed HBO programs ("The Wire," "Deadwood" and "The Sopranos," for example) and major cable and network programs ("Dexter," "Law & Order," "ER," "The West Wing," and more) — seems especially concerned with giving his work a sense of powerful, wide-screen effect, particularly in an extravagantly expensive series like "Rome," where such effect is so important. And there's no doubt that he's quite talented at producing work with this quality. He mentioned several times his disinterest in telling actors how to act, and in the sizzle reel for his upcoming "Ben Hur" miniseries (due to air on ABC in

2010), it seemed that rich, grand visuals would play as important a role as in "Rome."

In addition to "Ben Hur," the entirety of which Shill directed, he and Stamp will be involved in an upcoming HBO series focusing on the city of Pompeii between the earth's first tremors in A.D. 62 and the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79, with the grand finale potentially being released as a feature film. Despite the fact that "Rome" is regarded as one of the most expensive television shows ever produced (understandable for the level of detail that Shill showed going into its creation), the program was successful in ratings and reasonably well-reviewed, and its cancellation is often thought of as a mistake. It looks as if HBO wishes to reverse that mistake by airing this new series.

The segment delivered by historical consultant Jon Stamp — which, like Shill's talk, was interspersed with hilarious anecdotes from the series' production — focused more on answering the questions that Associate Professor of Classics and Faculty Co-Head of Ross Commons Pavlos Sfyroeras raised in his introduction to the lecture. He stressed the importance of retaining our sense of history, and in the context of "Rome," commented that its history/myth is such a powerful one that every generation since the empire's fall has held the myth up to itself as a mirror and seen something powerful and important there. He noted that this may be caused by the powerful contradiction that Rome embodies (and which makes it so similar to modern Western, and particularly American society); it combines the notions of fantastic excess associated with figures like Nero and Caligula with the "Republican," populist ideal that distrusts wealth and fame (and upon which our country was founded). Finally, he emphasized the fascinating aura of a pre-Judeo-Christian West that the program tried to recreate. Not only was this set of values

upon which Western society is now founded the Roman empire's most important legacy, claimed Stamp, but this ideology now so powerfully pervades Western society as we know it that getting a look inside a Western civilization based around different values could be one of the most rewarding aspects of "Rome."

Stamp also made sure to include a pitch that classical scholarship can lead one down many unexpected paths, including one that leads to verifying the historical authenticity of actress Polly Walker's bikini wax in her trailer. Anecdotes like this one — Stamp's story of how he lost the faith of the British bird-watching community by selecting a South American parrot as a set-piece, or Nardone's hilarious impression of Ray Winstone playing a Roman official with an inexplicable Cockney accent — accounted for a great deal of the lecture, and the attendees couldn't get enough of them. Discussing the importance of history and collective myth is certainly fascinating, but glimpsing the inner workings of the dazzling world of an extravagant television series is no less important to us plebeians, and Saturday's three guests brought this world to life with a great deal of wit and insight.



Saila Huusko, Photos Editor

On Saturday, Nov. 14, students learned about the creation of the HBO series "Rome."

Professor encourages sustainability using media

By Dana Walters
ARTS EDITOR

For anyone that's stepped onto Middlebury's campus, the bent toward environmental awareness quickly becomes apparent. Reminders to save energy grace signs above light switches, a plethora of recycling bins dot dorm rooms and offices and even the toilets in the Axinn Center save water by reneging on the routine downward push of the handle. And if students were not already breathing, thinking and sleeping "green," the environment has even seeped its way into academics. Students are now able to make any major they'd like "green," with environmental studies running the gamut from specialties in literature to economics.

It is no surprise, then, that the environmental spirit has now infiltrated the Film and Media Culture department. This Winter Term, Associate Professor of Film and Media Culture and American Studies Jason Mittell will offer a class titled "Sustainable TV: Producing Environmental Media," that will ask students to "produce a nonfiction television program discussing sustainability and energy issues."

With the College's involvement last year with Planet Forward, Mittell became inspired to create this type of course.

Frank Sesno '77, former CNN anchor and current journalism and public affairs professor at George Washington University, began Planet Forward as a way to spread the message of environmental awareness through media methods. Designed as a Web site where people can generate a dialogue about climate issues, the project has become an example of how pivotal a role media can play in the public sphere. People give their opinions not only through mere writing, but use video content

to generate a message.

"The goal is to hear from a variety of people who aren't getting their voices heard otherwise," Mittell said.

Last December, Sesno arrived at the College to generate enthusiasm among students about creating videos for his Web site, which by then had become a successful endeavor. Five videos appeared on the Web-site in March, and can still be seen at <http://www.planetforward.org>.

"Two of those videos ended up getting chosen for the PBS special that aired in April," Mittell said. "And one of them was actually the most popular video on the site."

That video was called "Going Under," a two-and-a-half minute animation "about Bangladesh being submerged under water." Created by Farhan Ahmed '09, Luisa Covaria '09, Ioana Literat '09 and Louis Lobel '08.5, the short uses collage-like figures to send a warning about the havoc that will result from the melting icebergs. After the video became popular, the students received the opportunity to see the taping of the PBS special, and Ahmed even made an appearance on the show in a panel discussion with Carol Browner, the director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy.

When Mittell later saw Sesno at last year's commencement, they hatched a plan for a class to unite the issues of environmental studies and media students had only been doing in their spare time.

"One of the impetuses of the course is to generate material for Planet Forward," Mittell said. "Every one of the short segments that they produce can be submitted to Planet Forward. It's up to the students whether they want to or not, obviously. The idea would be they would create things that would go into



Saila Huusko, Photos Editor

Associate Professor of Film and Media Culture and American Studies Jason Mittell held a pre-class meeting recently to talk about plans for his sustainable media course.

Planet Forward, that potentially, when they do their next taping, which will be in April, again we could have Middlebury participation, which would be really great — a really great opportunity for our students."

Changing his title from "professor" to "executive producer" who will only have final say in the products generated, Mittell emphasizes that student choice will dominate how the class works. In a largely collaborative model, students will have the opportunity to create what they want, switch roles as they please and play at different ways of production.

Unfortunately for students, one freedom they will not have is the power to procure a celebrity spokesperson like Al Gore or Leon-

ardo DiCaprio. Although Middlebury might appear to be riding the wave of the use of media to instigate environmental awareness, Mittell believes that media retains a power even when separated from the celebrity culture that has powered it recently in such films as "An Inconvenient Truth" and "11th Hour."

"I think one of the challenges that the environmental movement has faced," Mittell explained, "is that they've been branded as something for celebrities — sort of, 'It's chic to drive a Prius.'"

Without a celebrity behind the project, the professor still envisions the course as a powerful tool to spread environmental activism.

"I think that one of the other problems is that the issue is too global to make a difference," he said. "So what I really want to have happen is make this a sort-of grass roots media project focused at least in part on local actions and local decisions [in order to] make it empowering for people to say, 'Okay, watching this makes me think of here are some things I can do, here are some changes I can make in my life, here are some things I can advocate for that will make a difference.'"

If the projects are successful, Mittell intends to have a screening here on campus in the spring. In that way, the movies will continue to educate and raise awareness about what students believe are the central issues of climate action.

Although Mittell himself admits to never being centrally involved in the environmental movement, he sees media as one of the foremost forms for spreading such knowledge.

"I'm always interested in thinking about how you can use moving images and media to make social criticism or commentary," he said.

Students portray land

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

challenge, it was an effective and demanding way to be introduced to oil painting.

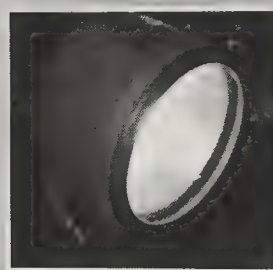
According to Butler, the class is based on "making images of the campus environment which are contemporary in meaning, style, and material usage[...]. When something is contemporary, you know it when you see it and hear it. It's something that resonates with us now."

He explained that, "You do not see the process in art unless you're able to read through the process." In other words, the "depth of invention" involved in the creation of a visual piece is often missed by those who don't use the materials. "It's a different mode and a different speed of understanding. And it's not better and it's not worse, it's just different[...]. You don't need a paragraph, you don't need a page and a half, and you don't need a lecture. You know it in one split second."

The exhibit itself shows a little of this process. The students' drawings are displayed alongside their oil paintings, and in comparing them it becomes possible to understand what Butler means. Each image is a facet of the Middlebury campus expressed through the eyes of its artists, but the images stop being simply a representation of the original scene and become something of a different kind: a fusion of the wholly individual perspective and method of the artist and their medium. In seeing them, it's clear that something new has been created, something different from the content of the original scene.

In Butler's words, "Humans want to engage in the new. It's important[...]. The contemporary is immediately and vividly recognizable."

And by that definition, the paintings are doubtlessly contemporary. Some are gripping with an absorbing energy, others fascinate and still others come alive with a vibrancy exceeding both the canvas and its subject.



spotlight ON... Matt Birnbaum '12

Readers who are familiar with the "Cow Parade" popular in various cities worldwide will be able to picture Matt Birnbaum's '12 ultimate goal — large-scale artistic turbines scattered around the Vermont country-side. *The Campus* Joanna Rothkopf sat down with the Old Stone Mill tenant and learned about his awareness-raising project.

Middlebury Campus: Can you talk a little bit about your project?

MB: Essentially, the project aims to educate and influence public opinion concerning large-scale wind energy development in Vermont. Currently, Governor [Jim] Douglas' [P'72] administration has a ban on windpower development on public lands (where the best sources for development exist) because he believes it will harm tourism. In addition, public opinion in Vermont is very anti-wind because some extremely vocal Vermonters believe it is ugly and unnatural. This has huge implications for private development projects as well because Vermont's zoning/development process is highly democratized. By using large installation art, we hope to redirect this negative perception and show that "wind is beautiful."

MC: Who else is on the team? How did this idea come about?

MB: The idea was actually developed by a team of Sunday Night Group (SNG) students when we were applying for a project grant from the Clinton Foundation's Climate Initiative. As far as I know, we have yet to hear back from them. I thought the idea was great and decided to tap into it myself. As of now I'm working with VACA and have gotten support from the SGA Environmental Committee. We are contacting local artists from

around Vermont to individualize the turbine sculptures, similar to Cow Parade that went on around the world.

MC: What have you done so far?

MB: I've been in contact with manufacturing companies and artist coalitions and am starting to contact placement sites around the state for showing. The project will hopefully be revolving and move around major population centers in Vermont towns where they will be visible. Look for them to appear in Middlebury first starting in early spring.

MC: Have you gotten any support or feedback so far?

MB: Yes! The SGA and environmental affairs committee are very supportive and everyone I have spoken is excited.

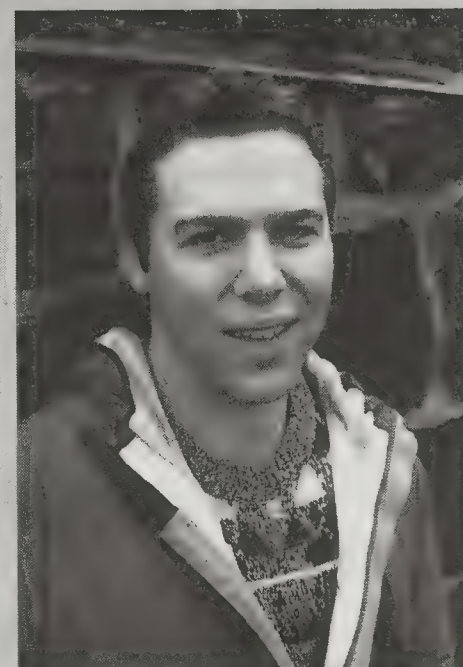
MC: What is your production schedule?

MB: I work on it mostly in the evenings and late at night[...]. I'm really bad at scheduling myself. I have a space at the Old Stone Mill so I've been working on it there.

MC: How have communities received your proposals?

MB: I have to finish the turbines first before I take that next step. I have been in touch with officials in Burlington and they've been really receptive. I've also recently reached out to the city of Montpelier. I would love to get these placed right in the center of these cities and to have these things right in the lawmakers' faces, so hopefully the project will speak to them as well.

MC: Will you be doing any additional aware-



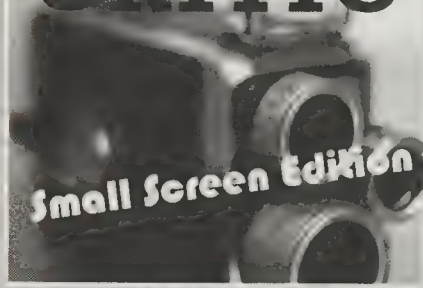
Maggie Khuu

Matt Birnbaum is revitalizing the Vermont landscape with his visions of wind-powered energy in efforts to promote sustainability.

ness campaigns alongside the installations?

MB: The campaign will come afterward. Next to every turbine we're creating an information panel and then a dropbox to submit your input or opinions. Hopefully, those responses will be helpful and we'll compile those responses and submit them to the various administrations. I'm really looking forward to getting feedback from the community and people who want to help out! Everyone should feel free to email me with questions or comments: mbirnbaum@middlebury.edu

— Joanna Rothkopf, Arts Editor

**THE REEL
CRITIC**

by Brad Becker-Parton

"Clear Eyes, Full Hearts, Can't Lose" is the sappy but never-tired mantra of Coach Eric Taylor who recently began a new era as coach of the East Dillon Lions on the new season of "Friday Night Lights." Coach Taylor's path of leaving the powerhouse Panthers for untested waters is familiar material for the FNL crew, as just last year, they left NBC primetime to air first run on DirecTV Network. In an innovative deal to save a critically acclaimed but rarely watched show, NBC and DirecTV brokered a deal that would allow FNL to stay on the air by playing twice, once on DirecTV then as a rerun on NBC. This year, NBC announced that FNL will be part of its summer lineup, a time when many dramas are on hiatus in order to help the show find an audience. For all the criticism NBC has taken for its decision to forgo creative programming at the 10 p.m. slot five days a week in order to air "The Jay Leno Show," this partnership to keep FNL on the air shows that network television still appreciates narrative storytelling.

Season four begins with a montage of what we've missed in Dillon, Texas, since we last left. Under the familiar voice of the town's football radio announcer, we see Coach Taylor headed to his new job at the downtrodden East Dillon High School, Tammy dealing with the consequences of redistricting, Matt coping with his decision to stay in Dillon, and Riggins inevitably leaving school and returning home. In addition, we are introduced to new characters such as Vince, the talented but wayward running back that Coach Taylor lets on his team as part of the cops-for-jocks program, as well as expanding roles for last season's minor characters like JD McCoy. From

the get-go, the tone of the season is set with the town of Dillon now featuring two schools and two football teams, one rich upper-class school with an illustrious past and one poorer school seeming to be predominantly black with a new football program. While FNL has addressed race issues in the past, the stage is set for that to play a dominant role this season. This season is clearly going to be a challenge for Coach Taylor, given the talent, commitment and support he has.

Three episodes in, the new season has yet to disappoint. The first episode started bleak, then — as FNL does so well — built up hope only to end the episode with one of the lowest of lows that the series has ever presented: Coach Taylor's forfeit. The out-of-character move characterized the uphill battle Taylor and the Lions have ahead of them this season. In the second episode, Taylor has to fight to regain the trust and commitment of his team. Another new character is introduced in this episode: the Panthers' star running back Luke Cafferty who, because of shady practices by the boosters, is forced by Tammy to attend East Dillon and play for the Lions. At first it seems that Luke is going to act entitled as a star on the fledgling Lions, but by the end of the episode, he burns his Panther blue and accepts his new situation (and position). In the third and most recent episode, the Lions return to the field but not without tension between the team's two stars, Vince and Luke. Both players look for special attention from Coach Taylor, with Vince making it racial. The episode comes to a head when Vince intentionally misses a block, preventing Luke from scoring, leading to a helmet-off confrontation with Coach Taylor on the sideline. In a way only he could, Taylor puts Vince in his place and earns his respect. The episode ends with Vince scoring a touchdown, the team's first, leading to a new hope among the Lions team.

The show is headed in an intriguing direction both on and off the field. This season should be groundbreaking for FNL on the field dealing with a bad team, socially addressing race and class issues, and emotionally with old characters flaming out and changing. The show captures realism as well as any show on television and thankfully, creative programming strategies by NBC and DirecTV has given it two more seasons to do so.

artsbrief**TOWN BOUTIQUES OFFER 'GREEN' OPTIONS IN CLOTHING AND GIFTS**By Tess Russell
MANAGING EDITOR

Up until famed department store Barneys New York highlighted sustainability in fashion through its "Give Good Green" holiday theme in 2007, the most memorable "green" moment in fashion had involved Jennifer Lopez, an exposed navel, and a Versace dress-cum-swimsuit-cover-up in a chintzy palm tree print. Since then, the movement has gained stream, with eco-ganic designers occupying an increasing portion of real estate in luxury retail stores and at Bryant Park during fashion week; Vogue even released its own green issue last April, though the publication's highly consumerist approach to the subject drew rightful ire from many bloggers.

As is the case with food, the problem is often one of terminology — in other words, does it make a difference that your designer jeans were made with organic cotton if they're being carted, en masse, across the country to arrive at your local boutique? Not surprisingly, the Vermont approach to green clothing seems rooted more in viability and less in idealism, with a focus on offering affordable options constructed, often locally, from recycled materials.

Addy Dorman, who acts as the floor manager at Mendy's in town, is also the founder of her own handcrafted clothing company (named "The Good Witch" in honor of her fascination with Oz's benevolent Glinda). Her wares — on display in the Mendy's backroom for those who know to ask — range from old tanks and t-shirts that she resuscitates with simple dying and silk-screening processes (sold for about \$10-15) to funky stretch knit dresses that she sews

together using a variety of recycled fabrics (\$40-65).

"Using these recycled materials is really utilitarian," explained Dorman. "It allows me to make a more affordable product, and I'm not buying my materials new when they exist — and are so beautiful — used. When I look at a pile of clothes that someone is about to throw away, I think, 'How can I make all of this into one great piece?'"

If you find yourself on a green gift hunt, there are a number of other popular — and ecologically responsible — items to be found in the town of Middlebury. Wild Mountain Thyme cites recycled yarn socks from E.G. Smith (\$9), 100 percent cotton baby clothes from Zutano (made in Cabot, Vt.) and sustainable shoes from Simple as some of their top sellers. Sweet Cecily does not sell clothing, but they offer a number of great options in housewares, including bamboo flatware and beeswax candles that never burn down, as well as a wide range of crafts and prints from local artists.

Still, while these new purchasing trends are encouraging, the real sea change in local shopping has more to do with what people are not taking with them when they leave a store.

"A major trend that I have noticed, even in the past year, is more and more people who do not want a bag [for their merchandise] because they are bringing their own with them," said Nancie Dunn, the owner of Sweet Cecily.

After all, given the proliferation of chic totes these days, sporting a plastic bag in institutional beige is not just irresponsible — it's downright gauche.

do you have a story idea?

e-mail campus@middlebury.edu**The Middlebury Campus**

we spent the last 104
years preparing for
this one.

Since 1905



Using her speed and deft ball control, forward Annie Rowell '11 races past two Husson defenders. Andrew Podrygala

Panthers blow past Husson and Wheaton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

two more goals, one assisted by Devin Perkins '12 and the other by Kirsten Lundquist '11, putting Middlebury solidly in the lead.

The women ploughed on as the field became increasingly muddy and torn up. Despite the score differential, the second half saw no lack of effort from either team. Schluter tacked on her second goal of the day — and seventh of the season — off a beautiful cross from Owen on the far left side. Hannah Newman '13 gave the soggy crowd something to cheer about as she made a valiant effort, sliding through the mud to get a touch on Cabonargi's cross. Five minutes later, Cabonargi tallied one of her own as she capitalized on a fumbled save by the Husson keeper, ending the game's scoring with a final score of 6-0.

This smooth play in the first round of NCAA playoffs allowed Middlebury to enter the second round against Wheaton feeling confident and composed.

Although the rain held off Sunday afternoon, Dragone field was so thoroughly torn up from the previous day that the game had to be played on the turf field instead. Many teams prefer playing on turf, but for a team like Middlebury that plays primarily on grass, the change can prove to be something of a

challenge. The ball bounces quite differently on turf and Middlebury players were often caught off guard and out of position. Still, the Panthers did not let this affect their play too much and kept pressuring the ball as fiercely as ever.

The game opened up with fast paced play but no scoring opportunities as both teams worked off their playoff excitement and jitters. Fifteen minutes into the game, Walker saw her first shot, and the first of the game, deflected over the cross bar, earning the Panthers a corner kick. Off the corner, Owen struck a hard ball into the box, and Walker was there ready to head the ball into the net, putting Middlebury up one-nil.

Wheaton is a team of considerable size, and their preferred tactic was to utilize the powerful legs of their defenders, sending huge balls downfield and hoping their forwards would capitalize. Although this contrasted greatly with Middlebury's smooth passing play, it did pay off for Wheaton 30 minutes into the game as Rosie Levy snuck one past Torch. In general, however, Middlebury's defense was always on the ready for these long balls and was extremely effective in shutting them down with timely clears.

Four minutes into the second half, Lundquist found herself in space on the far right

Women's cross country team takes first at NCAA Regionals

By Emma Hodge
STAFF WRITER

As the rain came pouring down Saturday morning, the Middlebury women's cross country team led the NCAA regional race, and ultimately finished in a tie for first place with rival MIT. The regional championship was held at the Twin Brook Recreation Center in Cumberland, Maine. Middlebury and MIT each finished with 63 points and earned the region's two automatic qualifying spots for the NCAA Division III Championships. Middlebury beat long-time conference rival Williams, who finished in third place, followed by Amherst in fourth and Wesleyan in fifth place.

Addie Tousley '13 led the Middlebury women. "Tousley ran a very smart race," said captain Annie Sullivan '10. "She went out hard and was able to stick with it throughout the course. It was truly a breakthrough race for her." Tousley finished the race in fourth place overall with a time of 21:54. Second to finish for Middlebury was Claire McIlvennie '12 with a time of 22:05.

McIlvennie was the 10th overall finisher. Just behind, in 12th place overall, was Sarah Lange '13 with a time of 22:09. Sophia Spring '11, finished fourth for the Panthers and 15th overall in a time of 22:17. Elise Moody-Roberts '12 was the last scoring finisher for Middlebury with a time of 22:24. Erin Toner finished in sixth with a time of 22:41. All of Middlebury's top six women earned all-New England honors.

The Middlebury men's team finished the NCAA regional race in seventh place.

Williams won the men's race, followed by Amherst and Keene State. Although the men were disappointed not to have qualified for nationals, they ran a tough race, in a tight pack and left everything out on the course. Michael Schmidt '12 led the Panthers with a ninth place overall finish in 25:36. Jack Terrett '11, was second to finish for Middlebury, and 26th to finish overall, with a time of 26:09.

Just behind Terrett was Mike Waters '10, with a time of 26:12. Fourth to finish for Middlebury was Peter Hoffman '10 with a time of 26:28. Middlebury's final scorer was first-year Jack Davies '13, finishing in 26:38. Schmidt, Terrett, and Waters earned all-New England honors.

This regional meet marks the end of the men's season, and the beginning of the women's quest to obtain another national championship. Next weekend the women head to Cleveland, Ohio for the NCAA Division III National Championships with seven runners and one alternate.

Additionally, Schmidt qualified to compete as an individual at nationals. The women will be watching out for MIT, Johns Hopkins and Calvin College, programs they anticipate will be their biggest competition.

"We're ready for a challenge at nationals," said Sullivan. "We're peaking at the right time, and the team is pumped." Regardless of the outcome at nationals, next weekend will mark the end of an incredibly successful and positive cross country season for both the men's and women's teams. A national championship for the women would be the icing on the cake.

wing, and took the opportunity to launch the ball into the box. The Wheaton keeper, Lindsay Leddy, got a glove on the ball and appeared to have stifled the scoring opportunity, but Cabonargi, refusing to give up, headed the loose ball into the back of the net, scoring the game-winning goal.

Wheaton continued to bombard the Middlebury defense with lob balls and strong free kicks, but Galgano and Demers in particular held their ground and refused to give Wheaton any opportunities to tie up

the game. Torch made an incredible diving save to stave off Wheaton's final attempt on net and secured the Panthers' 2-1 win and the NCAA regional title.

Now Middlebury is off to the NCAA sectionals against Johns Hopkins (time and place still to be determined). Demers represents the sentiment of the entire team when she says, "Coming off of our last home games of the season (or for some of us, the last of our careers) with two hard-fought wins is a fantastic feeling!"

Rugby advances on the road back to Nationals

By Karina VanHouten

STAFF WRITER

Rugby traveled to the UMass-Amherst campus this weekend for the national semifinal tournament. In their first matchup on Saturday, the Panthers took on the Stony Brook Seawolves. The horrendous weather was not ideal for either team, but the Panthers played a hard first half to gain a definitive lead and secure the win.

The impossibly muddy field made it clear that kicking would be the decisive factor in the game. Luckily, Middlebury kicker Brian Sirkia '12.5 was up to the challenge. In the first half, Sirkia opened the scoring 15 minutes after the whistle with a penalty kick for the panthers. Ten minutes later, Geoff Kalan '12 answered with a try. Kalan and captain Eddie Cahill '09.5 were noteworthy for their tenacious play throughout the match. The last score for Middlebury came again from Sirkia, who scored another penalty with six minutes to go in the half.

The second half gave the Panthers a chance to show their strong defensive game. By coming in with the advantage, they were able to adopt a calm and collected attitude, and focus on thwarting the Stony Brook offense. Middlebury's scrum game was also noticeably improved in the second half. While they were not able to capitalize on any more scoring opportunities, they kept Stony Brook out of the end zone for the entire 80 minutes, ending the game with an 11-0 win.

The other semifinal matchup on Satur-

day pitted UVM against UMass-Amherst, with UVM coming out on top. The next round of games would match UMass-Amherst against Stony Brook to determine third and fourth place. The competition for first and second place matched Middlebury against rival UVM.

This game marked the third time the Panthers faced UVM. In the earlier two matchups, Middlebury delivered two resounding defeats to UVM, and the Panthers looked forward to this opportunity to extend their perfect record. Unfortunately, despite playing a great game, they weren't quite able to finish on top.

The game was a "clash of the Northeast titans," said coach Muchadei Zvoma. The game opened as a competition between the two backlines and the kickers. UVM was the first to find success, scoring a try off of a lucky kick return. Middlebury countered with a run by flanker Zach Bills '11. Although not finishing with a try, Bills earned the Panthers a penalty kick, which Sirkia easily put away to render the score 3-7 in favor of UVM.

UVM continued to challenge the Middlebury defense, eventually scoring another try and a conversion. Two UVM players received yellow cards near the end of the first half, giving Middlebury the advantage for a few minutes, but the Panthers were unable to capitalize, ending the first half with UVM in the lead 14-11.

Early in the second half, the Panthers fought hard in the scrum and found them-

selves in prime offensive position. Kalan finished with a try off of a crisp pass from Sirkia to give Middlebury their first lead of the game, with a score of 15-14. The game continued with attacks and counter-attacks by both teams. Middlebury played a strong defensive game, but UVM eventually broke through the line to score another try, ending the game at 19-15 in favor of the Catamounts.

"All of the coaches are incredibly proud of the boys for the character they showed this weekend — we have been plagued by injury this

season but they gave their absolute everything in terrible weather conditions Saturday and against a good UVM side Sunday," said Zvoma. "We lost today but we walk away with our heads high and our eyes on the only prize that counts: the National Championship in the spring."

Despite the loss, Middlebury is assured a spot in the Sweet 16 tournament in the spring, along with UVM and UMass-Amherst. This is the first step in their road to nationals, where the Middlebury College Rugby Club will play to defend their championship title.



Eddie Cahill '09.5 makes a diving tackle in the Panther's win over UVM in NRU finals Sat. Courtesy

By Mary Walsh
STAFF WRITER

The 14 graduating seniors of the Middlebury football team ended the season, and their careers, on Saturday with a dominating win over the Tufts Jumbos. Unfazed by the downpour and the muddy conditions, the Panthers exhibited their strength and talent

FOOTBALL	
Saturday, November 14	
Middlebury	26
Tufts	7

with a 26-7 victory.

"After starting 1-3, I feel we all really came together and found an identity as a team, said tri-captain Jamie Millard '10. "[We] battled through lots of adversity with our game against undefeated Trinity, and our two games in the pouring rain at Bates and Tufts."

Similarly, tri-captain Paul Bennett '10 was satisfied with Middlebury's ability to execute a "well-rounded and complete game against a tough Tufts team [after] a rough start to the season." After struggling with completing the big plays and playing to potential for 60 min-

utes earlier in the season, the performances in the final four games demonstrated Middlebury's potency and proved that Middlebury remains one of the strongest teams in the NESCAC.

The dire conditions tested both teams, and forced an atypical amount of errors. Middlebury fumbled a three times, while the Jumbos fumbled twice. A Middlebury fumble led to the Jumbos' only touchdown. However, Middlebury's handling of the adverse conditions and ability to capitalize on the Jumbos' errors proved to be the differential.

Tufts quarterback Tom McNamara was intercepted twice by Charlie Taft '11 and Bill Greven '10. As Middlebury took advantage of these mistakes, Tim Monaghan '10 put the first points on the board after pass interference and personal foul was called against the Jumbos. Millard found that "[quarterback] Donnie [McKillop '11] was great in managing the game and passing the ball in such awful conditions."

Once again, the defense was nearly impenetrable. Millard noted that "the defense was absolutely dominant, as [Eric] Kamback '10] had a beast of a day with 20 tackles."

Kamback's second 20-tackle game tied the school record.

Taylor Robinson '10 also had a strong defensive performance. In his final game, he was responsible for two of Middlebury's six sacks of McNamara.

Offensively, McKillop completed 336 passing yards for three touchdowns, nearly three times the amount of McNamara's 130 yards performance. Once again, McKillop's performance earned him NESCAC player of the week. With a year remaining, he owns all of Middlebury single-season and career passing records, as well as the NESCAC single-season records for completions (262), attempts (405), yards (2873), touchdown passes (22) and total offense (2967).

Erik Rostad '10, Billy Chapman '13 and Millard were the major offensive contributors. Rostad finished his impressive career with an equally impressive game, as he had 78 rushing yards and six catches for 123 yards and two touchdowns. Chapman had two catches for 24 yards and a touchdown. Millard's four receptions lifted him over Tom Cleaver '04 to become Middlebury's single-season reception leader with 64 catches.

Green liasons drive changes in athletics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

house is in the works for sometime in the spring semester.

Athletics can no longer be considered separate from the green movement, heaped into some "other" category, and more importantly, can no longer allow itself to be left behind this movement as it picks up momentum.

As Middlebury moves toward its goal of carbon neutrality, the athletic department has proved its clout in environmental circles. The importance of student-athletic involvement in achieving these goals should not be understated, but as a distinct athletic culture, we still have a long way to go.

One of the overarching goals of the athletics department's ventures into sustainability is not simply to change practices, but to change mindsets. With the big picture in mind, simple changes, like walking instead of driving to Kenyon, can go a long way in reducing our footprint while forging an environmentally-minded athletic culture.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD				
Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
11/14 11/15	Women's soccer	Husson Wheaton	6-0 W 2-1 W	The Panthers prevailed over the muddy conditions and their two NCAA opponents as they advance to the Sweet Sixteen.
11/14	Field hockey	Trinity	2-1 L	The team ended their season with a hard-fought game against the Bantams and, despite the loss, have a lot to be proud of.
11/14	Football	Tufts	26-7 W	The Panthers completed their dramatic season turnaround with their fourth consecutive win at Tufts.
11/14 11/15	Men's rugby	Stony Brook UVM	11-0 W 19-15 L	The MCRC turned in a solid performance in the semifinal tournament to keep their national championship dreams alive.
11/14	Cross country	NCAA Regionals	1st (W) 7th (M)	The women's team yet again asserted its dominance in the D-III arena and the men came in with a solid seventh-place finish.

BY THE NUMBERS	
20,000	Tons of biomass to be incinerated annually by Middlebury's biomass plant that opened this year.
100	Number of buildings on campus heated and/or air conditioned by the biomass plant.
9	Acres of willows planted as a trial for the Willow Project.
400	Number of miles the Middlebury Nordic ski team can travel on a tank of gas in its veggie oil-powered truck.
50	Money, in dollars, mandated by the new student parking fee, which is intended to support carbon reduction initiatives.

Editors' Picks				
Questions	Alyssa O'Gallagher	Emma Gardner	Katie Siegner	Winslow Hicks, Guest Athlete
How far will women's soccer advance in the NCAA tournament?	FINAL FOUR These girls aren't going to go down without a fight.	ALL THE WAY Final four, Elite eight — with all this clever alliteration I can't decide so I'll just say GO BIG OR GO HOME.	ELITE EIGHT They're on a serious roll right now.	ALL THE WAY The men won in '07, now it's the women's turn to build the dynasty.
Who will score the most goals in hockey's season opener at Tufts?	JOHN SULLIVAN '10 I'm counting on the old vets to dominate the game.	JOHN SULLIVAN '10 One of the leading scorers in the NESCAC, Captain Sully won't let us down.	MARTIN DROLET '12 He's Canadian. Enough said.	DROLET '12 Martin Drolet will lead the team, but don't forget the man with the Pavel Datsyuk-like handling skills dealing the assist: Ken Suchoski.
Which squash team, men's or women's, will have the better result in their Williams matches?	MEN'S Just to play devil's advocate.	MEN'S The key performances of superstars Conor Hartnett '10 and Blake Daniel '10 will be sure to bring home a win.	WOMEN'S Led by the stellar play of Al Boillot '12!!	WOMEN'S "I think the women's team is particularly good" — Kevin Kelleher
How many points will men's basketball score against Swarthmore on Friday?	89 Based on past performance, I'd say basketball is not Swarthmore's strong suit.	110 Just to top Katie's prediction.	100 Swarthmore is absolutely terrible at all sports (note their basketball team's 3-21 record last season).	TOO MANY The real question is how we defend without our 6'10" African transfer student. Don't worry, you'll see him around campus soon.
Will any other NBA players agree with LeBron and retire their No. 23 jerseys?	YES In tribute to MJ (the less creepy one).	YES What a trendsetter.	NO He's crazy.	YES Jason Richardson said he's been "Getting lots of tweets about changing my number 4 MJ."
Career Record	25-17 (.595)	61-77 (.442)	16-26 (.381)	0-0 (.000)

THE CAMPUS WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

SKIING

After placing eighth in the 2009 NCAA Skiing Championship, the Middlebury Nordic and Alpine ski teams are gearing up for another successful run in the Eastern Carnival Circuit this winter. Each team can field six men and six women in the events, and hope to qualify all six participants in the NCAA Championships at the end of the season. The teams have survived grueling pre-season workouts this fall, featuring a diverse range of activities, including "bounding," numerous time trials, log rolling and car-pushing.

The fall preseason features many team bonding events that simultaneously strengthen the teams physically and contribute to positive team chemistry, as teammates motivate each other through the workouts and push each other to improve. At the Sunset Orchard Challenge, for example, the teams split up and competed in an obstacle course of sorts that involved carrying logs up a mountain. At the end, they spelled out 350 with sticks to show their support for international climate control.

"Everyone came back [this fall] fitter than I've ever seen since starting to coach at Middlebury," wrote four-year Nordic team coach Andrew Gardner on the ski team's blog. Alpine coach Steve Bartlett has also coached at Middlebury for four years with extremely successful results, which the team hopes to build on this winter. Both the Nordic and Alpine teams have a strong batch of new talent in their first-year class that will hopefully make a significant impact on the team's performance.

Middlebury's ski teams are traditionally fierce competitors in the Northeast region, dominating the other Division-III NESCAC teams and consistently challenging their perennial D-I rivals Dartmouth, UVM and UNH. In last season's carnivals, Middlebury earned several fourth-place finishes behind these three powerhouses as well as a second-place finish and two thirds. This year the team has set their sights on solidifying their position at the top of the Eastern Circuit rankings.

—Katie Siegner, Sports Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Middlebury men's basketball squad is looking to bounce back after last season was frustratingly cut short. The Panthers made their second straight national tournament appearance last year after winning a school-record 24 games and dropping only four over the course of the season. During the tournament, however, Bridgewater State's clutch long-range shooting in a sold-out Pepin Gymnasium handed Middlebury its first home loss of the season and denied the team's advancement to the sectional round.

Despite losing second team All-American Ben Rudin '09, starters Kyle Dudley '09 and Aaron Smith '09 and reserve Matt Westman '09 to graduation, the Panthers expect success again this season. However, it may take some time for the team to jell.

"We'll become much stronger as the season goes along," remarked coach Jeff Brown, last year's NESCAC coach of the year. "Captain Tim Edwards '10, last year's NESCAC defensive player of the year, is out three to four weeks with a fractured hand, and [last year's starting center] Andrew Locke '11 will return after his semester abroad in South Africa. With both of them back in the fold, we'll be much more competitive."

In addition, key reserve Ashton

Coughlin '11 has yet to practice, while others have intermittently suffered from injury (including Bill Greven '10, who has a fractured foot) and illness, all contributing to a relatively slow early-season start. But the Panthers appear to be stacked at all positions.

The front-court duo the 6'10" Locke and Jamal Davis '11 will be a force to be reckoned with throughout the season. The Panthers are counting on length and athleticism up front to cause problems on the defensive end. Coach Brown will also look to skilled post players Ryan Sharry '12 and Peter Lynch '13 for quality minutes off the bench.

In addition to Edwards and Coughlin, Kevin Kelleher '10 and Ryan Wholey '11 will provide Middlebury with perimeter threats while Nolan Thompson '13, who has been impressive in practice, is expected to share minutes at the shooting guard position. Henry Butler '12 and Jake Wolfson '13 are expected to share minutes at the point guard position.

As each Panther finds his role, the team will become a dangerous competitor. Middlebury begins its season at the Swarthmore Invitational on Nov. 20, but be sure to catch the Panthers for their home debut Nov. 24 against St. Joseph's.

—Will Sifton, Staff Writer

INDOOR TRACK

With several 'crossover' cross country-track runners every year, the tremendous success of the cross country program this fall is bound to spill over into the indoor track season. For the men, a solid seventh-place finish in NCAA regionals marked the end of competition, while the women, who finished the event tied for first with MIT, are still running, on a quest for their sixth NCAA championship in nine years.

If the success of the cross country program is any indication of what the indoor track and field season will shape up to be, impressive results are almost guaranteed. The perennially powerful women's squad, which sent five athletes to nationals last spring, is expected to make its presence known, while the consistent growth of the men's squad could usher in an improved season over last year.

Under the tutelage of last year's NESCAC coach of the year Martin Beatty, the squad, short a few key graduated seniors, among them co-captains

Ben Fowler '09 and Chandler Kogelmeier '09, and women's co-captain Kelley Coughlan '09, is looking to mimic last year's success. Relying heavily on young talent last season, the loss of leadership will give a very talented younger generation the chance to assume a greater role on the team.

Because the indoor season is acknowledged by many to be a glorified warm-up for the trials of the outdoor track, don't be surprised to see runners stepping outside their usual roles, running new races and maybe even trying their hands at a field event or two.

The youth and talent of the women's team, captained this year by Laura Dalton '10, Anjuli Demers '10, and Anne Sullivan '10, and the improvement of the men's squad, led by Micah Wood '10, Michael Waters '10 and Victor Guevara '10 would indicate a successful season in the offing, but look to the spring for runners abroad to return and the real fun to begin.

—Alyssa O'Gallagher, Sports Editor

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team has returned to Pepin Gymnasium this year with a newfound confidence and a positive attitude, following a disappointing season last year.

Last season the team finished with a record of eight wins and 15 losses, going only 2-6 in conference play. Despite being an intense and competitive squad, certain things did not go their way last winter.

The players responded to last season's setback by working incredibly hard during the off-season. After recognizing what was not successful in the past, the women have spent last spring and this fall working incredibly hard to solve these problems.

"Our hard work in the off-season has already given us a great jumpstart," said Brittany Perfetti '12.

The team this year will be led by captain Kaitlyn Fallon '10. Fallon is described by Perfetti as "one of the most hardworking people" she knows. "Fallon's heart and passion has

really motivated and connected us as a team," said Perfetti. This leadership will be a defining feature of the women's squad this year.

The women's team this year is incredibly young. It is composed of four first-years, four sophomores, two juniors and three seniors. The incoming class has proved to be an incredibly talented group that is expected to contribute much to the team.

Women's basketball returns with an optimistic outlook and lots of potential for success this season. This weekend will be the team's first test as they travel to Pennsylvania to play Haverford and Swarthmore in their first games of the season.

"I think we're going to bounce back," says Perfetti. Her confidence is inspiring, and indicative of the high hopes the program has for the 2009-2010 season.

—Emma Hodge, Staff Writer

WILLIAMS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The women's hockey team is all about bonding this season — both within the squad and with the Middlebury community at large. After having spent an evening with residents of the town at a Community Supper at the Congregational Church recently, the Panthers got to know their fans — a group that, at many times over the years, has proven to be more die-hard than the College's own student body.

After collecting both the NESCAC Championship and NCAA Division III third place trophy last winter, the women deserve a little celebrity status. This year, many of the players are back for another season of strong play — with seniors hungry for an NCAA title and the seven first-years eager to prove themselves on the ice.

At the helm of the program remains head coach Bill Mandigo, who enters his 22nd season with

the team. A coach whose tenure with the program is older than most of the women on the squad have been alive, Mandigo brings a history of success to the ice that is unparalleled in the NESCAC.

The trifecta of captains Lani Wright '10, Marjie Billings '10 and Heather McCormack '10 (who enters the season fresh off the field hockey turf) also promises to deliver impressive results as it guides the team through a competitive schedule of matches, starting at home on Nov. 22 against Conn. College.

The real event to watch, however, will be the Panther-Cardinal Classic, which will bring Middlebury's two biggest rivals — Plattsburgh State and Amherst — to Kenyon Arena to battle it out with the Panthers on Jan. 3.

—Emma Gardner, Sports Editor

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Middlebury swimmers and divers are highly anticipating and preparing for their first meet this upcoming weekend. The team will compete against Connecticut College and Tufts on Nov. 21 and against Springfield on Nov. 22.

Swimmers on the men's and women's side had impressive results in the NCAA meet last year, but the team ended the season on a fairly even keel; the men's team finished with a record of 4-5 and the women 5-4. The team looks forward to move up from there this year.

"We look forward to continuing the momentum we have started during preseason," said co-captain Katie Remington '10.

Although the team graduated a handful of key contributors including Catherine Suppan '09, Zach Woods '09 and Kevin O'Rourke '09, the class of first-years has the potential to fill their shoes.

The depth of the 2013 class is promising, and their performance this weekend will greatly impact

whether or not the Panthers come out victorious.

In addition to the deep first-year class, the return of co-captains Katie Soja '10 and Katie Remington '10 from abroad will help bring the team to the next level. Both girls were abroad for part of last year, and therefore missed half of the 2009-2010 swim season.

On the men's side, John Dillon '10 arrives back at Middlebury stronger than ever and looks forward to making a large contribution in the swimming lanes this year.

With strong team chemistry combined with individual determination and hard work, the Panthers have the chance to be formidable in the pool this winter.

It will be exciting to see them compete this season, and interesting to see which rookies make an impression in this upcoming meet and throughout the season.

—Molly West, Staff Writer

MEN'S HOCKEY

Since setting their skates on the ice at the beginning of October for captain's practices, the men's hockey players have displayed renewed determination to get the program back to where it once was — at the top of the NESCAC and Division III NCAA rankings. As last season came to a close, the squad suffered two blows: falling short of a NESCAC championship at Amherst and missing a bid to the NCAA playoffs.

Though the Panthers ended the season with a 19-7-1 record, the players put their skates away for the spring with a feeling of missed opportunities. Today, they are eager to prove they still have what it takes.

With 13 new players joining the roster, the team has a new

face — and with it, a new desire to dominate the competition on the ice at Kenyon and on the road.

To be sure, the stick skills of the team's seniors from last season will be missed, having graduated second team All-American Jamie McKenna '09 along with a solid group of experienced players. Nevertheless, the near future looks bright for this historically successful team, which includes last year's NESCAC Rookie of the Year, Martin Drolet '12.

As the 13 first-years make their debut on the ice this weekend at Conn. College and Tufts, the team will look to show off its new and old talent with high hopes for the season.

—Emma Gardner, Sports Editor

SQUASH

Middlebury squash has progressed drastically over the past four years. First, the program stole longtime rival coach John Illig from Bowdoin. His enthusiasm and recruiting prowess have fueled this recent success. Along with Coach Illig's arrival, the program made the transition from club to varsity. While the change was mostly superficial, the name change reflects the increasing dedication and focus of the team.

Last year, both the men and women pushed Middlebury to new heights in the national rankings. Middlebury's mens team went from the bottom of the C-flight (24th) to the top (17th) during the 2008-2009 season, while the women jumped from 18th to 13th. While the Panthers look to continue their previous success, the focus is all on the future.

"The goal is to maintain this upward trajectory and move up to the B-flight," said captain Simon Keyes '10. "The pre-season kept everyone in good shape and thirsty to play, while an individual tournament two weeks ago at Bowdoin gave everyone a taste of what they have been thinking about all off-season. I think everyone is really excited."

Coach Illig has placed continued development of the talent pipeline as a top priority. There is no junior varsity squash and, as such, even the lowest players on the bracket get the same exposure to Coach Illig as the players at the top. These "vagues," as they are known on the team, range from new first-years trying out the sport to seniors who are trying to make the jump from recreational to competitive play.

Both the men and the women are losing their top players from last season in JP Sardi '09 and Sally Hatfield '09, but the infusion of new talent is apparent. Both teams boast four new first-years, including several that may be expected to make immediate contributions near the top of the ladder. This talented crop of young players on both teams really stands to benefit from the hard work and determination exuded by their elders.

This year, the teams play host to several key matches against teams like Amherst and St. Lawrence. The program has high hopes as it continues to scale the ranks of college squash.

—Jeb Burchenal, Staff Writer

Field hockey falls to Trinity in NCAA duel

By Sarah Bryan
STAFF WRITER

After a tremendous season of hard-fought battles and uplifting performances, the 2009 Middlebury field hockey season came to an end last weekend with a 2-1 loss to Trinity in an NCAA regional game at Ursinus. The team had a stellar year, despite a rocky start. It lost to Tufts in the season opener, rebounded quickly to beat Springfield in their second game, but then lost again to Trinity 2-0.

After Trinity, the Panthers found their form and went on a strong five-game winning streak. Losing to Amherst was just a quick bump in the road, and come October, they turned on the burners again for another extremely high-scoring five-game win streak, outscoring their opponents 30-8.

That ended regular season play, and although hopes were high as they entered the playoffs, they suffered a disappointing loss to Williams in the first

round. With such a loss, a chance at NCAA playoffs seemed slim, but their hard work throughout the season paid off and they were given a bid.

After plowing straight through UMass-Dartmouth last Wednesday in a killer 5-1 victory on Peter Kohn Field, the Panthers prepared themselves for the road trip to regionals. Morale was running high and the girls were pumped to travel down to Pennsylvania to play Trinity at the neutral site.

Saturday's game was a tough one to watch, as Middlebury struggled to contain the Trinity offense early on. Junior Robyn Williams scored early for the Bantams off a penalty corner just three minutes into the match. Sixteen minutes later, sophomore Payson Sword tipped in a shot giving Trinity a 2-0 lead.

Middlebury came out fighting in the second half, controlling the ball and keeping it up in their offensive end. Chase Delano '11 put Middlebury on the board for the first time, deflecting a shot



Emma Gardner

The Middlebury and UMass players stood in suspense as the ball shot into the net, tallying a point for the Panthers.

from co-captain Mullery Doar '10. Both teams fought relentlessly throughout the remaining 25 minutes of play, and with only three minutes to go, Middlebury pulled its goalie in an attempt to gain an advantage. They earned a flurry of penalty corners during those last few minutes, including one that marked the end of the game. Despite the attempts, Middlebury was unable to execute in those final seconds. The game ended with Middlebury outshooting Trinity 19-8.

Despite the final score of Saturday's game, Middlebury succeeded in many other ways throughout the year. The team boasts strong statistical achievements, finishing with a 12-5 overall record, 63 goals, four players named to the all-NESCAC squad, two NESCAC players of the week and one NESCAC rookie of the year.

Emily Blair '12 earned first-team NESCAC squad while her teammates Lauren Greer '13, Chase Delano '11 and Heather

McCormack '10 earned second-team honors. Greer was also named rookie of the year for her performance on the attacking line. She scored 18 goals in the team's 17 games and is ranked 16th nationally for goals per game.

As the seniors say goodbye to their athletic career at Middlebury, the younger girls look forward to next season and the prospect of finally clinching that elusive NCAA championship. They have a year to prepare and will return next fall poised and ready to fight.



Andrew Podrygala

Center midfielder Devin Perkins '12 launches the ball downfield against Wheaton on Sunday.

Women's soccer advances to NCAA Sweet Sixteen

By Kate Burchenal
STAFF WRITER

On a rather dreary November weekend, the women's soccer squad rose above the weather and came out with success on many fronts.

Last Thursday, the NESCAC announced its all-conference teams. Each with six players honored, Middlebury and Williams players dominated the elite squads. Anjuli Demers '10 found herself on the first team for the third time in as many years. Keeper Lauryn Torch '11 was also named to the first team. Annie Rowell '11 made it onto the second team along with her tri-captains Jenny Galgano '10, Margaret Owen '10 and Lindsay Walker '10.

"It just shows how much of a team we truly are, and that the talent is spread throughout so many players," said Demers of the team's achievements.

The team entered the weekend proud of

individual players who received accolades, but also ready to show how united it has become this season.

"We give it our all on the field for each other," said Paola Cabonargi '10. The Panthers first challenge came Saturday in the form of the Husson University Eagles of Maine.

The first 30 minutes of play were characterized by both teams vying for possession of the ball, but with few significant chances on net. Middlebury took this opportunity to rest injuries, giving younger players a chance to shine in the playoff spotlight.

With 10 minutes left in the half, the Panthers decided to demonstrate their dominance on the field. Amy Schlueter '13 kicked off the scoring as she snuck the ball across the goal line during a scramble in front of the Husson keeper. This goal opened up the floodgates, and within three minutes, Rowell had scored

SEE HUSSON, PAGE 20

Panther athletics adopts environmental outlook

By Alyssa O'Gallagher
SPORTS EDITOR

When thinking of the words "sustainable" and "Middlebury," the word "athletics" doesn't usually fit in between. The first things to come to mind are usually the biomass plant and maybe Dining Services' efforts to use local foods; the idea of sustainable athletics — not only the idea that athletics *can* be sustainable, but also the idea that athletics *should* be sustainable — often gets left behind.

Considering how ubiquitous athletics are on campus, with 28 percent of the student body participating in varsity sports (not to mention popular club and intramural programs) the idea of "green athletics" has been overlooked by most in the College's ongoing effort to achieve carbon neutrality by 2016.

While the ties between the athletic and environmental cultures at Middlebury may seem tenuous, they nonetheless occupy a major position on the athletic department's yearly agenda.

Interest in the subject was piqued four years ago when a group of lacrosse players enrolled in one of Associate Professor of Economics Jon Isham's classes was motivated to make carbon neutrality a reality for the men's lacrosse team.

Since then, student-athletes from nearly every sport have taken the initiative in bridging the gap between the athletic and environmental worlds.

Under the stewardship of Nordic skiing head coach Andrew Gardner, who serves as liaison between the athletics and environmental offices and co-chairs the environmental council, athletes from almost every sport have been named "green liaisons" and charged with the task of looking after the sustainable interests of

their individual teams.

In the past, athletic culture has been marked with waste, "driven," as Gardner said, "by large consumerism." This stigma placed the athletic world at odds with environmentalists, appearing counter to the goals of sustainability.

While Gardner continued, noting that at Division III schools that mentality is a little less pervasive, he said that even at Middlebury "the cultures [of athletics and environmentalism] are so separate."

In conjunction with the green liaisons and the environmental council, he has worked throughout his four-year tenure to prove that the ideals of environmentalism "are not at odds with athletic culture."

At last year's sustainability summit, hosted by the environmental council, 18 of the 80 delegates present were green liaisons, representing the athletic interest in promoting sustainability on campus. The efforts of these student-athletes have produced three proposed and approved grants to the environmental council that further the athletic department's green agenda.

Initiatives ranging from replacing light switches in the athletic facilities with more efficient ones to recycling tennis balls and purchasing a biodiesel transportation van have stemmed from the department's dedication to eliminating excess waste and drawing the focus away from athletics as consumerism.

In attempts to further encourage collaboration between the College's athletic and environmental programs, a dinner co-sponsored by the athletics department and Weybridge

SEE GREEN, PAGE 21

this week in sports

Cross country regionals
The women's team tied for first at NCAA Regionals while the men came in seventh, p. 20.



games to watch
Men's basketball vs. Swarthmore
Friday, November 20 at 8 p.m.



Winter sports preview:
Look inside to see which varsity teams will dominate the competition, pp. 22-23.